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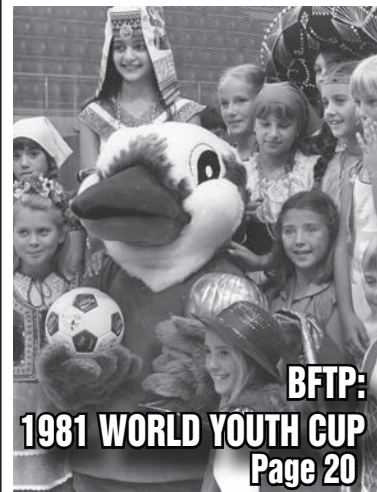


goal!!

W e e k l y

A-League Round 21 Friday 17th Feb - Sunday 19th Feb 2012

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Edwards and Vidmar to lead Youth Coaching Positions

Two former Socceroos have been appointed coaches of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Program and the Qantas Joeys (Under 17 National Team) for the coming years.

In addition to his current position as the Football Federation Australia (FFA) Assistant Technical Director, Alistair Edwards will take on the role of Qantas Joeys Head Coach for the 2012 AFC U-16 Asian Cup to be held in October, and for the 2013 FIFA U-17 World Cup a year later. Former Socceroo Tony Vidmar has been appointed by FFA and the AIS as the AIS Senior Coach and will assist Edwards at Qantas Joeys matches.

The AIS and Qantas Joeys coaching positions had previously been combined and held by Jan Versleijen whose contract ended in December 2011. The roles have now been separated and National Technical Director Han Berger said the new arrangement will give Australia's best up and coming male players the best opportunities to develop into professional and national team players.

"Alistair and Tony have shown themselves, both as players and more recently as coaches, to be of the highest calibre and to have the right attitude, experience and personalities to be in charge of these two vital development programs.

"Whilst the AIS program aims to provide the majority of players for the Qantas

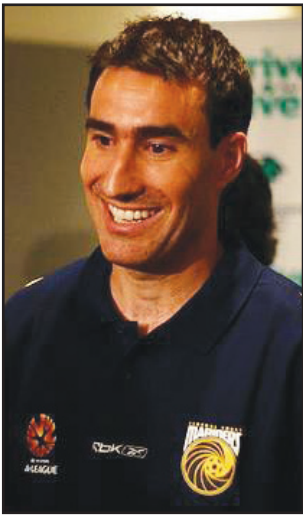


Alistair Edwards

Joeys squads, the task of providing the daily training environment for the players and that of managing a team at international tournaments are slightly different.

"To recruit two former Socceroos and well credentialed coaches for the separate roles really enhances the support and development that these players will receive.

"Tony will work as Assistant Coach



Tony Vidmar

for the Qantas Joeys and accompany Alistair on the bench at their matches.

"Alistair will retain his role as the FFA Assistant Technical Director and continue to perform the duties that he has in the past as well.

"We are also in the process of appointing an Assistant Coach for the AIS program which we will announce in the near future," concluded Berger.

To further contribute to the development



Peter de Roo

of the players in this vital age group, the AIS and FFA have appointed Peter de Roo, the Technical Director of Football Queensland to the newly created position of Technical Manager of the AIS Football Program. This position will provide the technical and management direction to the program and the coaches to ensure that the development objectives of the program are met.

AIS Acting Director Phil Borgeaud said:

"The combination of the new structure and the fact we are appointing such high quality technicians in Peter and Tony provides a great platform for our best young football players to succeed at the national and international level."

"The AIS is pleased to support the evolution of the football program and provide the best possible daily training environment for our future Socceroos"

Bio Information

ALISTAIR EDWARDS
Born: 21.6.1968, Whyalla, SA
Socceroo honours: 22 appearances (5 goals) [1991-1997]
19 A internationals (3 goals) / 3 non-A internationals (2 goals)
Other Australian representative honours:
U-20 - 1987 FIFA U-20 World Cup campaign qualifiers

TONY VIDMAR
Born: 4.7.1970, Adelaide, SA
Socceroo honours: 91 appearances (3 goals) [1991-2006]
76 A internationals (3 goals) / 15 non-A internationals
Other Australian representative honours:
Schoolboy International 1988
U-23 - 1992 Olympic Games (Barcelona)

PETER DE ROO
Born: 16.2.1970 Netherlands
Technical Director Football Queensland 2009-2012

Short Passes

TSIARAS SIGNS WITH SOUTH
South Melbourne FC is delighted to announce the signing of Dimitri Tsiaras from Richmond Eagles for the 2012 Victorian Premier League season.

Tsiaras arrives at Lakeside Stadium having established himself as a solid and reliable midfielder, having also captained Richmond in the VPL.

Tsiaras was part of Richmond's Minor Premiership side in 2010 that ultimately fell just short of becoming Premier League Champions when it lost 3-0 to Green Gully in the Grand Final. A lifelong South supporter and former junior player of the club, Tsiaras will provide coach Peter Tsolakakis' side with determination, leadership, passion and most importantly solid experience at VPL level.

South Melbourne FC welcomes Dimitri Tsiaras to Lakeside Stadium and wishes him all the best for season 2012.

PUNTER TURNS \$10 INTO 70K WITH 10 LEG PREMIER LEAGUE MULTI BET

One lucky punter has turned a \$10 bet into over \$71,000 after winning a 10-leg English Premier League multi bet at odds of 7156-1 with online bookmaker sportsbet.com.au!

Winning a total of \$71,563, the punter seemed home when he only needed favourites Manchester City at \$1.73 to defeat Aston Villa, with City getting up 4-1 in the final leg of the multi to seal the win.

Four of the ten selections were outsiders, including Norwich to defeat Swansea at odds of \$4.33.

The bet was far from smooth sailing for the punter, with several bets threatening to go either way. His bet on Arsenal to defeat Sunderland at \$2.10 looked over when the match was tied at 1-1 in the dying minutes, only for Thierry Henry to score the match winning goal in the 90th minute to put them up 2-1 and keep the punter's multi alive.

When contacted by sportsbet.com.au, the punter was not even aware that the bet had won. Amazingly, he admitted he wasn't even a soccer fan and had guessed most of the legs!

"It is obviously a brilliant effort by the punter, but we were quite amazed when he said he didn't even follow the Premier League!" said sportsbet.com.au's Shaun Anderson.

"We are sure he will be following it pretty closely from now on to try and get another multi."

Futsalroos selected

Qantas Futsalroos Head Coach Steven Knight has named a 14-man squad for the upcoming AFC Futsal Championship 2012 – ASEAN qualifiers which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21-26 February 2012.

Following a number of intense week-end training sessions, Knight is confident that his players will be successful at the ASEAN qualifiers.

"It was a tough decision to settle on the final selection of players, but I believe that the squad are the best available players at this time," said Knight

"With the mix of youth and experience we have, there is a good understanding of what is required to qualify for the AFC Futsal Championships and we will be developing National team players of the future as well.

"There is a high level of excitement around the squad at the moment and we're all eager for the kick-off of the first match against Cambodia," concluded Knight .

The Qantas Futsalroos have been placed alongside Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam in Group B of the ASEAN qualifiers for the AFC Futsal Championship 2012.

- FUTSALROOS SQUAD
- Jarrod Basger Maccabi Hakoah NSW
George Cattanaach Boomerangs ACT
Robbie Cattanaach Boomerangs ACT
Daniel Foggarty West City Crusaders NSW
Greg Giovenali Dural Warriors NSW
Andres Gomez Sydney City Eagles NSW
Simon Keith Campbelltown Quake NSW
Shervin Keshavarz Enfield Rovers NSW
Danny Ngaluafe No current Club QLD
Gavin O'Brien Campbelltown Quake NSW
Tobias Seeto Dural Warriors NSW
Peter Spathis Sydney City Eagles NSW
Lachlan Wright Enfield Rovers NSW
Chris Zeballos Sydney City Eagles NSW

The Qantas Futsalroos opening match of the tournament will be against Cambodia on 21 February (kick-off 11:30am local, 3:30pm AEDT), followed by Malaysia on 22 February (kick-off 11:30am local, 3:30pm AEDT) with their last group match against Vietnam on 23 February (kick-off 2:00pm local, 6:00pm AEDT).

The top three teams from the ASEAN qualifiers will progress to the AFC Futsal Championships 2012 which will be held in the United Arab Emirates in May.

Phoenix owner passes away in Seattle

Lloyd Morrison, a driving force behind the Welnix consortium that saved the Wellington Phoenix football club, passed away in a Seattle hospital after a long battle with leukemia.

Morrison, 54, was a proud Wellingtonian and Phoenix owner who played a major role in bringing together members of the consortium that is headed by his brother Rob .

Rob Morrison said everyone in the consortium knew Lloyd and respected what he wanted to do for Wellington and the Phoenix.

"It didn't matter what Lloyd did, he always

Cooper set for memorable debut



Dept of Youth: Gold Coast coach Miron Bleiberg with young gun Mitch Cooper. Miron has since been suspended.

GOLD Coast United's dedication to promoting young Australian players will continue this Friday night with two more youngsters set to make their senior debuts against Melbourne Heart at AAMI Park.

Midfielder Jake Barker-Daish, who was recruited from the AIS at the end of last season, will be joined in this week's Hyundai A-League squad by one of the club's brightest young talents, Australian U17 international Mitch Cooper.

With skipper Michael Thwaite suspended for the Heart clash, and to highlight United's commitment to creating a career path to professional football for its youngsters, Cooper will wear the captain's armband to mark his full debut for the club.

Long regarded as star of the future, Cooper's progress has continued in United's National Youth League side this season where the attacking weapon has notched six goals to date.

He will become the youngest player to be granted the honour, epitomising what United have achieved in youth development in less than three years in the competition. On the day of the game he will be 17 years and 152 days old.

"Mitch has been developing nicely and has been patiently waiting for his chance," said Head Coach Miron Bleiberg.

"Giving him the armband symbolises some of the positives from this season in that young players have taken a step forward and it's a nice gesture from Clive Palmer and the club to make him captain for the day.

"No one can deny that we are bringing good young players through here and whatever Mitch goes on to do in his

career he will have a nice record and memory of his debut. This record might still stand even when he's a grandfather!

Cooper won a National Youth League title with Gold Coast last season and was a key member of the Qantas Joeys side who competed in the 2011 FIFA U17 World Cup Finals in Mexico. In the tournament a fine performance against Brazil saw him receive the praise of his peers, picking up the man-of-the-match award for his all action display.

The young forward said he had been waiting for his Hyundai A-League debut for a long time and can't wait to get out onto the field.

Miron Bleiberg suspended
CHAIRMAN of Gold Coast United, Professor Clive Palmer, today announced the suspension of the club's Hyundai A-League Head

Coach, Miron Bleiberg, for one match.

Professor Palmer stated that the suspension was given to the coach because of the comments he made in respect to Gold Coast United's captain for the Hyundai A-League match against Melbourne Heart this Friday evening.

Professor Palmer said the whole club was committed in supporting Mitch Cooper as captain of the Hyundai A-League team and he had been selected on his merits. The United Chairman also stated that he believed Mitch Cooper would one day captain the Socceroos.

"So far, Mitch Cooper has had an outstanding football career having represented Australia in the 2011 FIFA U17 World Cup in Mexico where he was named as players' player of the match against Brazil," Professor Palmer said.

For the record the bet consisted of:

Leg	Price
1. Aston Villa v Man City	1.73
2. Wolves v WBA	3.10
3. Spurs v Newcastle	1.44
4. Swansea v Norwich	4.33
5. Sunderland v Arsenal	2.10
6. Fulham v Stoke	2.00
7. Everton v Chelsea	3.30
8. Bolton v Wigan	3.75
9. Blackburn v QPR	2.25
10. Man Utd v Liverpool	1.83

Winners in bold

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	20	12	4	4	31	17	14	40
2 Brisbane Roar	21	10	5	6	38	22	16	35
3 Wellington Phoenix	21	10	3	8	29	24	5	33
4 Perth Glory	21	9	4	8	31	27	4	31
5 Newcastle Jets	21	8	4	9	30	32	-2	28
6 Melbourne Heart	21	7	6	8	28	29	-1	27
7 Sydney FC	21	7	6	8	28	35	-7	27
8 Melbourne Victory	21	5	10	6	26	31	-5	25
9 Adelaide United	21	5	8	8	23	36	-13	23
10 Gold Coast United	20	3	6	11	21	32	-11	15

THIS WEEK	Week 20	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 17 Feb 2012	Melbourne Heart v Gold Coast United	AAMI Park	8:00pm	8:00pm
	Sat 18 Feb 2012	Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix	Bluetongue Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 18 Feb 2012	Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat 18 Feb 2012	Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
	Sun 19 Feb 2012	Adelaide United v Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm	5:00pm
NEXT WEEK	Week 21	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Fri 24 Feb 2012	Newcastle Jets v Adelaide United	Ausgrid Stadium	8:00pm	8:00pm
	Sat 25 Feb 2012	Sydney FC v Wellington Phoenix	Sydney Football Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
	Sat 25 Feb 2012	Gold Coast United v Melbourne Victory	Skilled Park	6:45pm	7:45pm
	Sat 25 Feb 2012	Perth Glory v Brisbane Roar	nib Stadium	7:00pm	10:00pm
	Sun 26 Feb 2012	Melbourne Heart v Central Coast Mariners	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

ROUND 21 RESULTS

Melbourne Victory 2 (Carlos Hernandez 16', Harry Kewell 51')
Central Coast Mariners 1 (Tomas Rogic 9')

Sydney FC 2 (Brett Emerton 54, Bruno Cazarine 73)
Perth Glory 1 (Billy Mehmet 86)

Newcastle Jets 3 (Jeremy Brockie 23', Ryan Griffiths 47', Michael Bridges 75')
Melbourne Heart 0

Wellington Phoenix 0
Brisbane Roar 2 (Berisha 41', Nichols 81')

Gold Coast United 1 (Boogaard og 7)
Adelaide United 2 (Djite 42, Vidosic 60)

TOP GOAL SCORERS

13 - Besart Berisha (Roar)
9 - Shane Smeltz (Glory)
8 - Jeremy Brockie (Jets)
7- Matt Simon (Mariners), Ryan Griffiths (Jets), Archie Thompson (Victory), Serge van Dijk (Adelaide Utd)
6- Carlos Hernandez (Victory), Mate Dugandzic (Heart), Mitch Nichols (Roar), Bruno Cazarine (SFC)



Jeremy Brockie was on target for the Jets against Heart.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK ROUND 21

Compiled by Steven Talevski



GK: Ivan Necevski – Necevski grabbed his rare start with both hands as he made some telling saves to help Sydney to the three points against Perth Glory.

RB: Cassio – Adelaide's veteran Brazilian full back continues to work hard in his return which was displayed in Adelaide's equaliser where he was able to keep the ball in the field of play to provide Bruce Djite with a crucial delivery.

CB: Mohamed Adnan – The Bahraini international is fast becoming one the A-Leagues best and most consistent defenders with another defensively solid performance in Brisbane's two nil victory on the road against Wellington Phoenix.

CB: Michael Beauchamp – Beauchamp had a solid game in defence for Sydney while also making a number of runs down the field as Sydney FC push for the finals.

LB: Byun Sung-Hwan – Newcastle's left back was again dangerous from set pieces as he set up Ryan Griffiths for the Jet's second goal while also forcing Clint Bolton into a solid save in Newcastle's three nil victory.

RM: Brett Emerton – Sydney FC's marquee man delivered in front of the Cove with a powerful strike to hand his team the lead before setting up Bruno Cazarine's header with a terrific cross as he captained the Sky blues to a 2-1 victory over inform Perth Glory.

CM: Carlos Hernandez – The Costa Rican international was back at his best with a stunning right foot strike from the edge of the penalty area that struck the woodwork and went in for Melbourne's equaliser in their come from behind victory against the Mariners.

CM: Tomas Rogic – The nineteen year old opened the scoring at AAMI Park with a great left foot strike beating Victory goalkeeper Ante Covic as the ball went into the bottom right corner.

LM: Harry Kewell – It was a moment Victory fans had been waiting for as Harry Kewell hit a great left foot volley to score his first in-field goal at home this season as the Victory stunned the top of the table Mariners.

ST: Jeremy Brockie – The New Zealand international makes Goal! Weekly's team of the week for the second round in a row after another great attacking performance which included scoring a header to kick off Newcastle's three nil victory over the Melbourne Heart.

ST: Besart Berisha – Berisha scored one of the goals of the round with a sweetly hit first time volley to hand Brisbane the lead in their two nil victory over Wellington.

Star Man

Brett Emerton
Sydney FC



The Socceroo was back at his best against Perth Glory as he opened the scoring at the Sydney Football Stadium before setting up Sydney's second in a 2-1 victory over the Glory. Emerton's performance on the weekend was one of his best since returning to Australia after 11 long years at Dutch club Feyenoord and EPL outfit Blackburn Rovers. Emerton will look to continue his good form as he looks to add to his 91 caps for the Socceroos, with the milestone of 100 national team games a clear target that is well within his reach.

Thank God It's Friday... **GW is now available at all good newsagents every Friday**
Also available at Heart & Victory & Jets & Adelaide home games






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Melbourne Victory



2

CC Mariners



1

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 2 (Carlos Hernandez 16', Harry Kewell 51')
Central Coast Mariners 1 (Tomas Rogic 9')
Venue: AAMI Park
Referee: Peter Green
Attendance: 14,060

Melbourne Victory: 21. Ante Covic, 3. Fabio, 4. Petar Franjic, 5. Mark Milligan, 10. Archie Thompson, 11. Marco Rojas (18. Danny Allsopp 69'), 16. Carlos Hernandez (6. Leigh Broxham 86'), 17. Jimmy Jeggo, 22. Harry Kewell, 23. Adrian Leijer, 24. Ubay Luzardo,

Unused substitutes: 1 Tando Velaphi, 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano.
Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Justin Pasfield, 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson, 8. Rostyn Griffiths, 14. Michael McGlinchey (21. Sam Gallagher 89'), 16. Trent Sainsbury, 17. Tomas Rogic (9. Bernie Ibini 81'), 18. Alex Wilkinson, 23. Adam Kwasnik.

Unused Substitutes: 31. Brody Crane, 10. Adriano Pellegrino.
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Trent Sainsbury 63'

Victory at last for Magilton!

By Daniel Quinn

Melbourne Victory have defeated Central Coast Mariners 2-1 at AAMI Park on Friday night to win Jim Magilton's first game in charge.

Jim Magilton made three changes after the nil-all draw in the Melbourne Derby. New Spanish signing Ubay Luzardo came in for his debut, Jimmy Jeggo makes his first start in the A-League and Carlos Hernandez also comes in. Jean-Carlos Solorzano, the suspended Grant Brebner and Leigh Broxham all made way. Pedj Bojic, Bernie Ibini, Adriano Pellegrino and Troy Hearfield all make way for the visitors with Tomas Rogic, Trent Sainsbury, Adam Kwasnik and John Hutchinson all came in.

Youngster Tomas Rogic opened the scoring to score his first A-League goal. The 18-year-old beat new signing Ubay Luzardo before Adrian Leijer and Petar Franjic failed to close him down so the young forward shot from distance and beat Ante Covic from distance.

On 16 minutes Victory equalised. Marco Rojas cut the ball back from the right before Hernandez shot a powerful drive from the edge of the box which thundered off the inside of the post.

Midway through the half Rogic was causing havoc for the Leijer and Franjic but his effort from distance was skied well over. Soon after Leijer and Franjic backed off from Rogic and the youngster's attempted chip went agonisingly wide.

Just before half-time Hernandez could have had his brace but his effort was well saved by the feet of Justin Pasfield.

Mariners' continued to threaten at the set pieces with Daniel McBreen who rose up at another Mariners' corner but his header bounced into the ground over Covic.

Early into the second-half Victory through Kewell took the lead. The ball was headed back into the box by Jeggo after a clearance and Kewell on the volley finished brilliantly with his left-foot.

On 55 minutes Kwasnik missed a great chance for the visitors. The ball was cleared up the middle and as Leijer missed the header Kwasnik on the volley unlike Kewell butchered the effort.

Victory went right up the other end as Hernandez played in Archie Thompson. The Socceroos forward audaciously lobbed Pasfield but the great effort wasn't on target.

Michael McGlinchey's corner next caused more problems for the Victory defenders



Harry Kewell's left foot strike eludes the glove of Justin Pasfield and sneaks inside the far post post. Photo: TIM SIZE

as Jeggo failed to clear but Sainsbury's header was put just over onto the top of Covic's net.

Two minutes later Central Coast were down to ten as Trent Sainsbury was given a straight red card for a challenge on Fabio. The young defender's tackle was reckless and studs were shown in the challenge on the Brazilian.

With about 10 minutes left of normal time Kwasnik received the ball in the box before Jeggo made a last ditch saving tackle. But Kwasnik was clever enough to pick the ball up with both feet while on the ground and flicked it over his own head but Covic was there to save.

Victory on another fast counter with substitute Danny Allsopp this time powered over from the edge of the box.

Two minutes later Jeggo was found all on his own at the back stick but curled his effort wide as the youngster looked for his first A-League goal.

Victory with their fast counter continued to look for another to finish off the visitors and Allsopp this time cut in from the left before shooting powerfully at Pasfield.

Two minutes later Pasfield was in the action again and denied Thompson's curling effort with a great save to keep the deficit to one.

With a couple minutes left Hutchinson tried

an ambitious effort but his volley on the right was skied into the stands.

On the brink of stoppage time Allsopp powered through young substitute Sam Gallagher before trying his chances but his effort was hit straight at Pasfield before Kewell fired the follow up well over. But Victory were able to hang onto their first win in six games and the first win of the Jim Magilton regime.

Melbourne Victory coach Jim Magilton hopes that his side now will have the confidence to go on with a run. "We have got in our team, I hope a belief flowing through it, a confidence flowing through it and we are pretty much still a work in progress but

training has been lively this week, there was a good feeling. We talked about the positives from last week and credit goes to the players, they built on that and we made a lot of the right decisions and I think that is through consistent messages in training." Central Coast Mariners boss Graham Arnold despite the lost was happy with his side's performance. "It was a great game of Football, it was a great spectacle. Melbourne Victory played fantastic and I was very, very happy with how we played, that is the best we have played in a while and I thought it was a great game of Football, was very entertaining and there were chances and great goals scored."



AAMI Park erupts at Harry Kewell's winner and get to finally taste victory again after a five match barren run. Photo: TIM SIZE



Victory captain Adrian Leijer with the ABI Cup after defeating the Mariners. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Saturday, March 3


Kick-off 5.30pm

AAMI Park




ticketek.com.au or call 132 849

Newcastle Jets



3

Melbourne Heart



0

Match Details

Newcastle Jets: 3 (Jeremy Brockie 23', Ryan Griffiths 47', Michael Bridges 75')
Melbourne Heart: 0
At Hunter Stadium
Referee: Ryan Shephard
Crowd: 10,619

Newcastle Jets: 1. Ben Kennedy (Gk), 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5. Tiago, 8. Jeremy Brockie, 10. Ruben Zadkovich, 11. Tarek Elrich (2. Taylor Regan 86') 12 Jobe Wheelhouse (C), 13 Byun Sung-Hwan, 23. Ryan Griffiths (22. Ali Abbas 78'), 24. Francis Jeffers (9. Michael Bridges 67'), 25. Jacob Pepper.
Substitutes Not Used: 19. Matthew Nash (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Wheelhouse 10'
Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint Bolton (Gk, C), 2. Michael Marrone, 4. Simon Colosimo, 7. Rutger Worm, 9. 10. Wayne Shroj (3. BrendAn Hamill 81'), 11. Alex Terra, 13. Jonatan Germano, 18. Curtis Good, 19. Eli Babalj (15. David Williams 55'), 26. Paul Reid (9. Maycon 61'), 27. Craig Goodwin.
Substitutes Not Used: 30. Sebastian Mattei (Gk)

Yellow Cards: Good 49' & 90+2, Worm 68', Colosimo 83'
Red Cards: Nil (Good Incorrectly Allowed To Remain On Field)

By Adrian Deans

The Newcastle Jets have continued their march towards finals football with a crushing 3-0 victory over a depleted Melbourne Heart at Hunter Stadium.

Jeremy Brockie, Ryan Griffiths and Michael Bridges were all on target for the home side ensuring that the 10,619 Novocastrian fans went home delighted.

It was Brockie who began proceedings in the 23rd minute. The ball was shifted wide by Jobe Wheelhouse directly into the path of wide man Tarek Elrich. He teased and tormented Heart right back Michael Marrone before he bent in a cross from the right edge of the penalty area. In form striker Brockie, fresh from a brace the week before against Sydney FC, glanced a deft header from 12 yards. It left Heart keeper Clint Bolton helpless as it nestled into the side netting at the far post.

It was no more than the home side deserved as they were dominating play and it led to another chance for them to almost instantly double their lead. Industrious midfielder Jacob Pepper picked up a pass from Captain Jobe Wheelhouse and paused before delivering an inch perfect ball to the feet of English striker Francis Jeffers. He took a touch to control before he rifled an effort inches wide of Bolton's right hand upright from the edge of the penalty area.

Clint Bolton was immense in the 26th minute as he somehow denied Elrich as the winger seemed destined to score. The ball was shifted from one side of the pitch to the other, with the highlight of the move being Newcastle defender Tiago Calvano's no look pass to Elrich. The pacy winger, having by far his best game of the season again twisted past Marrone and bent a wonderful strike to the bottom corner of Bolton's net. The veteran keeper managed to somehow fingertip the strike around the post to the disbelief of all in the stadium.

Newcastle continued to control proceedings and if anything could have been leading by far more than their single goal at the break.

Ryan Griffiths made the home fans wait



Match Stats



3	Saves	3
6	Attempts on target	3
6	Attempts off target	5
48%	Possession	52%
6	Corners	6
2	Offsides	2
17	Fouls committed	15



Jets star Jeremy Brockie scores and leaves Heart keeper Clinton Bolton reeling. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

for only two minutes after the interval to double the advantage. A free kick was awarded to Newcastle on the touchline about 30 yards from goal. South Korean fullback Byun Sung-Hwan whipped in a devilish ball that Griffiths gently guided past Bolton from 15 yards, sending the home fans into delirium.

Melbourne rarely threatened throughout but did manage an opportunity in the 66th minute. Substitute David Williams, who had earlier come on for ineffective striker Eli Babalj used his speed to hit Newcastle on the counter before releasing Rutger Worm on the edge of the Jets penalty area. He cleverly dummied to beat Byun before bending an effort from 15 yards.

Unfortunately the shot lacked power and direction and Jets keeper Ben Kennedy was able to save comfortably.

Former Leeds United striker Bridges was on hand to seal the three points for the Jets nine minutes later. Ruben Zadkovich let fly with a speculative effort from all of 30 yards that was poorly directed. Young Heart centre back Curtis Good attempted to clear the ball away to safety. All he managed to do was deflect the ball out of the path of the covering Simon Colosimo. The ball flew perfectly into Bridges' path and he showed his poachers instinct by finishing astutely from inside the six yard box.

The Englishman almost doubled his tally ten minutes later in what would have

been a contender for goal of the season. The Jets had been pressing since scoring a third goal without really creating any chances. Bridges decided to take matters into his own hands and smashed a 25 yard volley after linking up with Zadkovich. The shot would have dipped in if not for more impressive glove work from Bolton.

In all honesty, the Heart owes their keeper a great deal of gratitude for keeping the score line as close as it was. Bolton was a shining light for the visitors in a performance in which they were completely outplayed.

Another unusual incident was the non red card of Heart defender Curtis Good. The defender had been booked for a foul in

the 49th minute and again transgressed in stoppage time. In a moment not befitting the referee's performance, he failed to produce the red card allowing the Heart defender to escape being sent off.

Jets striker Bridges was justifiably happy after the game.

"We have been playing well lately and the goals are starting to flow for us, which is nice."

This victory sets up a mouth watering clash with the Perth Glory at NIB stadium next weekend for the Jets, while the Heart will be looking to rebuild their confidence as they take on Gold Coast United next Friday night at AAMI Park.



The Jets are hitting their straps just at the right time of season, and making a huge splash for finals football.Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Michael Bridges scores his first goal in the A-League and seals the points against Heart. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Sydney FC



2

Perth Glory



1

Match Details

Sydney FC 2 (Brett Emerton 54, Bruno Cazarine 73)
Perth Glory 1 (Billy Mehmet 86)
Sydney Football Stadium
Crowd: 8,508
Referee: Strebre Delovski

Sydney FC: 20. Ivan Necevski, 4. Pascal Bosschaart, 5. Michael Beauchamp, 6. Hirofumi Moriyasu, 7. Brett Emerton, 8. Karol Kisel (12. Shannon Cole '68), 9. Bruno Cazarine, 10 Nick Carle (22. Nathan Sherlock '93), 16. Joel Chianese (24. Mitch Mallia '80), 21. Scott Jamieson, 23. Rhyan Grant.
Sub not used: 1. Liam Reddy.

Yellow cards: Karol Kisel 40.
Red cards: Nil

Perth Glory: 1. Danny Vukovic, 3. Bas van den Brink, 5. Steve Pantelidis, 7. Jacob Burns, 9. Shane Smeltz, 10. Liam Miller, 13. Travis Dodd (27. Andrezinho '73), 14. Steven McGarry, 19. Josh Risdon, 21. Mile Sterjovski (4. Billy Mehmet '64), 35. Dean Heffernan.

Subs not used: 20. Neil Young (gk), 8. Adam Hughes.

Yellow cards: Jacob Burns 14.
Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC's surge ends Glory's streak

By David Mason

Sydney FC roared back into the winners circle with a well-deserved 2-1 victory over Perth Glory at the Sydney Football Stadium.

Second half goals from Man of the Match Brett Emerton and Bruno Cazarine secured the three points that sees Sydney FC move back into the top six but it was the debut of Joel Chianese, the non-stop work of Nick Carle and the passion of the side that had the Sky Blues fans on their feet.

Perth scored a late consolation goal in the 86th minute although replays showed that Billy Mehmet was offside as he ran onto a ball to score.

There was also a touch of glamour at the match with former Miss Australia Laura Dundovic and Mel B (aka Scary Spice) enjoying the Sydney FC game from the stands.

Sydney FC made three changes to the team that went down last weekend against Newcastle. Emerton returned from injury with Chianese handed his starting debut as Terry McFlynn (suspended) and Mark Bridge (ankle injury) missed out while Ivan Necevski replaced Liam Reddy between the sticks.

The match game started with the Sky Blues backing up their words of praise and respect for Vitezslav Lavicka with actions as they attacked every loose ball with vigour. Carle, in particular was immense defensively.

The introduction of Chianese gave Sydney FC some pace up front and it almost paid dividends in the 7th minute when only a last-ditched Josh Risdon interception thwarted Cazarine after a quick transition led by Chianese had Perth stretched.

Another player brought into the team this weekend, Necevski, also covered himself in glory, coming off his



Match Stats		
6	Saves	7
10	Attempts on target	7
3	Attempts off target	3
49%	Possession	51%
6	Corners	3
0	Offsides	3
16	Fouls committed	12

Brett Emerton buries his chance and the Sky Blues are on the way to ending Glory's 8 match unbeaten streak.

line twice to smother through balls before he pulled off a wonderful save to deny Travis Dodd in the 23rd minute.

Neither side could lay claim to having the ascendancy at the half time break as the players went to half time with the scores locked at 0-0.

After the break Sydney FC gained the upper hand, using width on both side of the midfield with Emerton and Karol Kisel and it was the experienced pair that played a huge part in the opening goal of the game in the 54th minute.

Sydney FC played some smart quick passes in the midfield before Cazarine

flicked a neat ball out wide for Kisel to fly down the left touchline, cut the ball back to the edge of the penalty area and Emerton controlled the ball and thumped it into the back of the net.

The goal lifted Sydney further and if not for a desperate double block from the Perth defence in the 66th minute denying Kisel and Chianese, Sydney could easily have doubled its lead.

Chianese had an even better chance to score his first Hyundai A-League goal in the 67th minute when the ball fell to his feet 10m from goal but his shot was saved by Perth 'keeper Danny Vukovic.

The pressure ultimately paid off in the 73rd minute when Cazarine scored his 7th goal of the season with a diving header that came after yet another foray down the touchline. This time it was substitute Shannon Cole who found space out wide, delivering a cross to the far post that was played back in by Emerton and Cazarine met the ball with a thumping header.

Chianese was replaced in the 80th minute and received a fantastic ovation from the Sky Blue fans and his replacement, fellow youngster Mitch Mallia, forced a great save from Vukovic less than a minute later.

Perth pulled a goal back in the 86th minute when Billy Mehmet scored, although he was clearly offside when he ran onto a through ball and volleyed the ball into the back of the net.

The win lifts Sydney FC to equal 6th place on the competition ladder, right in the middle of a congested mid-table that sees the Sky Blues just four points behind Perth, who stay in 4th-place.

Sydney FC takes on Adelaide United next Sunday at Hindmarsh Stadium before the Sky Blues return to the Sydney Football Stadium on 25 February for a clash with Wellington Phoenix.



Sydney FC's Nick Carle and Perth Glory's Liam Miller vie for aerial dominance.
Photo: GEOFF JONES



Liam Miller of Perth Glory is tackled by Hirofumi Moriyasu of Sydney FC.
Photo: GEOFF JONES

BE A PART OF MELBOURNE'S HEART

Wellington Phoenix

0

Brisbane Roar

2

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 0
Brisbane Roar 2
(Berisha 41', Nichols 81')
Venue: Westpac Stadium
Referees: Jared Gillett

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Mark Paston (GK), 3. Tony Lochhead, 6. Tim Brown, 7. Leo Bertos (11. Daniel 63'), 8. Paul Ifill, 9. Chris Greenacre, 17. Vince Lia, 18. Ben Sigmund (14. Mirhan Pavlovic 78'), 21. Dani Sanchez, 22. Andrew Durante (C), 24. Alex Smith

Substitutes not used: 19. James Downey, 20. Tony Warner (GK)

Yellow cards: Vince Lia (28'), Andrew Durante (85')
Red cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theoklitos (GK), 2. Matt Smith (C), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 6. Erik Paartalu, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Murdocca, 10. Henrique (21. James Meyer 68'), 16. Mohamed Adnan, 22. Thomas Broich, 24. Nick Fitzgerald (17. Mitch Nichols 63')

Substitutes not used: 12. Matt Mundy, 20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)

Yellow cards: Mohamed Adnan (37'), Shane Stefanutto (50'), Matt Smith (68')
Reds cards: Nil

Roar looking a class act once again

By Joe Gallagher

Brisbane Roar have underlined their title credentials with a 2-0 win in Wellington against the Phoenix – their second away win against a top two side in a fortnight.

The Roar went into the match high on confidence after dealing league leaders Central Coast Mariners their first loss in 15 last weekend and the three points lifts Ange Postecoglou's side back into second ahead of a late season surge for the minor premiership.

The Phoenix, on the other hand, slump to their first loss in five and will be bitterly disappointed not to have snatched something from a match in which they had several golden opportunities. The loss, their fourth in Wellington this campaign, sees them clinging to third spot on the ladder ahead of a tricky coming fortnight against the Mariners and Sydney FC – both in Australia.

Postecoglou's lineup was unchanged from that which won in Gosford, and contained the league's most lethal striker in Besart Berisha. Sayed Mohamed Adnan returned to New Zealand's capital for the first time after missing the penalty for his native Bahrain which effectively saw the All Whites through to the World Cup finals at his nation's expense.

Ricki Herbert was forced into only one change from the side which defeated Adelaide United 2-1 at Hindmarsh Stadium nine days earlier – Manny Muscat's absence from suspension meant Vince Lia provided cover at right back.

Lia, an inexperienced defender, would not have been surprised by the attention he received in the early stages of the match from Roar attackers Nick Fitzgerald and Thomas Broich, but, to his credit, Brisbane could not find a way in behind the defensive line of the Phoenix.

Leo Bertos had a chance to score in the opening forty minutes, driving a shot at Michael Theoklitos which was well saved by the Brisbane stopper. Alex Smith had a long range shot sail high and wide but that was the best of the running for the hosts.

Not long after, however, any hard work by the Phoenix was undone by the league's leading marksman, Besart Berisha. A lofted through ball by Erik Paartalu was met by the Albanian, who



	Match Stats	
2	Saves	5
5	Attempts on target	5
6	Attempts off target	6
36%	Possession	64%
4	Corners	3
3	Offsides	2
17	Fouls committed	9

Andrew Durante and Vince Lia hunt in packs and surround Besart Berisha. Photo: PETER McDONALD

provided the finish with an outstanding volley. Serious queries (and rightly so) were raised by the Phoenix defence as Berisha appeared suspiciously offside as Paartalu's ball was delivered.

But as much as the Yellow Fever bemoaned the decision to allow the goal to stand, even the most passionate of Phoenix fans couldn't have denied Brisbane a half time lead, as the Phoenix – other than Bertos' tame effort – had barely fired a shot in anger throughout the opening 45 minutes. The hosts' two shots were contrasted by nine from Brisbane in the first period.

The goal meant that the Phoenix's tactic of sitting back and soaking up pressure

from the Roar had to be addressed in the sheds. Surely enough, the opening twenty minutes of the second half saw a stark contrast to their style of play.

An attacking and frenetic Phoenix outfit saw Paul Ifill well saved by Theoklitos in a one-on-one, Chris Greenacre's lofted shot sail wide, a Lia header thwarted by the Roar goalkeeper and a near own goal miss the upright by a matter of centimetres before a second Brisbane goal undid the Phoenix once more.

After 81 minutes substitute Mitch Nichols hammered a brilliant finish from the edge of the area past Mark Paston after an excellent assist from Ivan Franjic. The goal effectively put the game to bed,

despite a late flurry of Phoenix attacking which saw Ifill again denied by an excellent save from Theoklitos.

The loss meant that the Phoenix had seen two separate tactics (one in each half) fall short of a Brisbane side who are starting to find their stride again after stumbling mid-season.

It also means that the Phoenix have, remarkably, picked up more points away from Wellington than in it – a stunning statistic considering that only five weeks ago the Phoenix had yet to register a win across the Tasman.

Sadly, for Herbert, his longest winning streak in the A-League is over. The only positive to come from the weekend is that



Roar's Besart Berisha is finding his goal touch again and breaks the deadlock with a deadly left foot strike. Photo: PETER McDONALD



The race is on! Phoenix's Paul Ifill and Mohamed Adnan stride for supremacy. Photo: PETER McDONALD

Gold Coast United

1

Adelaide United

2

Match Details

Gold Coast United 1 (Boogaard og 7)
 Adelaide United 2 (Djite 42, Vidosic 60)
 Crowd: 1723 at Skilled Park, Robina
 Referee: Chris Beath

Gold Coast United: 40.Chris O'Connor [gk], 3.Michael Thwaite (c), 4.Zac Anderson, 5.Kristian Rees, 7.Golgol Mebrahtu (21.Daniel Severino 69'), 14.Ben Halloran, 15.Adama Traore, 16.Maceo Rigters, 24.Jonas Salley, 28.Daniel Bowles (2.Josh Brillante 87'), 31.Daniel Bragg (17.Chris Harold 61').

Unused subs: 30.Brendan White [gk].

Yellow cards: Thwaite 20'.
 Red cards: None.

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene Galekovic [gk] (c), 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 6.Cassio, 7.Zenon Caravella (18.Fabian Barbiero 67'), 8.Evgeniy Levchenko, 9.Sergio van Dijk, 10.Dario Vidosic, 11.Bruce Djite (21.Francisco Usucar 73'), 14.Cameron Watson, 17.Iain Ramsay.

Unused subs: 38.John Hall [gk].
 15.Jacob Melling.

Yellow cards: Watson 18', Levchenko 35', Djite 51'.
 Red cards: None.

Reds triumph in six pointer cellar battle

By Neil Favager

MISSED chances prevented Gold Coast United from at least taking a share of the spoils against Adelaide as the visitors walked away from Skilled Park with all the points courtesy of a 2-1 win.

Just before half time former United striker Bruce Djite cancelled out Maceo Rigters' seventh minute opener for Gold Coast, then Dario Vidosic hit the winner on the hour with a free-kick from outside the box.

But a youthful Gold Coast had chances to both extend their lead in the first half and restore it in the second. A mixture of inexperience, misfortune and profligacy conspired against them, despite a gritty performance against an Adelaide side equally desperate for the points.

Miron Bleiberg had mixed news on the injury front heading into the game, with big defender Ante Rozic joining James Brown and Peter Jungschlager on the casualty list after tweaking his hamstring at training on Friday. The good news came in the shape of Maceo Rigters who shook off his foot injury and was passed fit before the game.

With injuries creating a hole in mid-field, the Gold Coast boss gave a Hyundai A-League debut to 19-year-old youth team schemer Daniel Bragg, the youngster partnering Jonas Salley in the home side's engine room. Before kick-off storm clouds were hovering overhead but it was United who got off to a lightning start, hitting the front as early as the seventh minute. There was an element of good fortune about the finish as Maceo Rigters' first time shot cannoned off Nigel Boogaard to leave Reds keeper Eugene Galekovic flat-footed. But the build up was all class from Ben Halloran who darted past Evgeniy Levchenko with ease before pulling the ball back for Rigters



Match Stats		
1	Saves	3
4	Attempts on target	3
6	Attempts off target	10
46%	Possession	54%
5	Corners	5
3	Offsides	2
12	Fouls committed	15

The Reds celebrate Bruce Djite's equalizer, thanks to good lead up by Cassio. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

to strike.

Just four minutes later Golgol Mebrahtu went within inches of making it 2-0 after latching on to a fine pass from Michael Thwaite, before former Gold Coaster Bruce Djite spurned a golden chance to level when he failed to connect cleanly with an Iain Ramsay cross.

Gold Coast were having much the better of it and Bragg almost marked his debut with a goal midway through the half. Halloran again enjoyed the freedom of the right wing and picked out Bragg with another decisive cutback, but Galekovic managed to

gather the ball at the second attempt before Bragg's strike squirmed beneath him.

The visitors worked their way back into the contest as the half wore on and three minutes before the half-time whistle they levelled. Cassio looked to have knocked the ball too far past Halloran, however, the Brazilian never gave up the chase and did well to cross for Djite who headed home from six metres.

United almost began the second period as they began the first, creating two good opportunities inside the first eight minutes. Zac Anderson had the

first of them, but couldn't direct his header into the net after Jonas Salley had nodded Bragg's free-kick into his path.

Moments later the luck that helped Gold Coast take the lead deserted them. Golgol Mebrahtu showed blinding pace to leave the reds' defence in his wake, then was left frustrated as Galekovic did enough to force his shot onto the crossbar before watching the ball bounce to safety.

That frustration was compounded soon afterwards as Adelaide hit what proved to be the winner. A free-kick some 25 metres from goal looked

harmless enough, but Dario Vidosic's strike made its way through a sea of legs and deceived Gold Coast keeper Chris O'Connor who was beaten on his near post.

As Gold Coast huffed and puffed for the leveller, substitute Chris Harold took a touch too many in the box when played in by Rigters and Salley couldn't capitalise when Galekovic completely missed a swirling cross into the box. Young full-back Daniel Bowles tried his luck from distance as he attempted to cap a fine performance with a goal, but John Kosmina's men held on to take the points back to South Australia.



In a battle of strength Iain Ramsey and Ben Halloran try to gain the upper hand in difficult conditions. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Dario Vidosic hits what appears to be a harmless strike, but the ball sneaks in over the line after coming off the near post. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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Friday 17th February 2012

9

MELBOURNE HEART

Heart Line Up

1.Clint Bolton (GK)
2.Michael Marrone
3.Brendan Hamill
4.Simon Colosimo
5.Fred ©
6.Matt Thompson
7.Rutger Worm
9.Maycon
10.Wayne Srhoj
11.Alex Terra
13.Jonatan Germano
15.David Williams
19.Eli Babalj
26.Paul Reid
27.Craig Goodwin
30.Sebastian Mattei (GK)
one to be omitted

In: Fred, Matt Thompson
(return from injury)

Out: Kristian Sarkies (calf – 2 weeks), Curtis Good (suspended)

Unavailable: Aziz Behich, Mate Dugandzic, Jason Hoffman (all Qantas Australian U23 duty)

Melbourne Heart v Gold Coast United

Fri 17 Feb AAMI Park 8:00pm

By John Clark

The Melbourne Heart host Gold Coast United at AAMI Park this weekend and to say that it's a must win clash is an understatement.

Neither of these teams have registered a win in 2012, an unwanted record that both will be looking to break. Both teams came into the new year with great hope having strung together positive results together over the busy Christmas period, but any momentum that was built coming into the new year was quickly abolished as both sides struggled to put together any semblance of their 2011 form.

The bad run of results has proved fatal to the Gold Coast who are now just making up the numbers after falling eight points behind Adelaide in last position.

Last Sunday they hosted the Reds, knowing that a win would close the gap to just two. Early on they finally had lady luck on their side when the brilliant Ben Halloran charged to the byline and cut the ball back to Maceo Rigters whose shot took a wicked deflection off Nigel Boogaard and nestled in the back of Eugene Galekovic's net. It was no more than the Gold Coast deserved after a year of horrendous luck.

The Gold Coast continued to compete bravely, but just before the half ex-striker Bruce Djite came back to haunt them when he powered a header home. Adelaide would eventually run out winners after Dario Vidosic's long range free kick was fumbled by Chris



Odds:
Heart 1.73
Draw 3.60
Gold Coast 5.25

Heart aim to end poor run of results

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 5): Melbourne Heart wins 1, Gold Coast United wins 1 (3 draws)

O'Connor into his own net.

The fallout from the loss has been somewhat unusual with a teary Miron Bleiberg fronting the media claiming that his side will 'wreak havoc' in the final weeks of the season.

Clearly the rollercoaster season has taken its toll on one of the great personalities of our game as the club battles to win games on the field and faces constant speculation about its future off it. The club also took the extraordinary step of naming 17 year old debutant Mitch Cooper as captain for this week's match.

The Clive Palmer led initiative was apparently a 'symbolic gesture' point-

ing to Gold Coast as a young club on the rise. They will have only two players over the age of 23 when the team takes to the field this weekend. The Heart on the other hand could not have asked for a more perfect opportunity to break their duck for the year. Last week in Newcastle they were outplayed all over the park by the suddenly high flying Jets. A couple of factors could point to the sudden demise of a side that looked to be a premiership contender only a few weeks ago.

Firstly the imminent resignation of coach John Van't Schip can only have acted as a distraction to the players even if it is a minor one. Secondly and most importantly, a severe lack of per-

sonnel has meant no real continuity in the starting line up.

The players missing aren't just 'role' players either with last weeks team without Captain Fred, Matt Thompson, Mate Dugandzic, Aziz Behich and Jason Hoffman. They should retain Thompson this week, but will be without youngster Curtis Good after the defender received two yellow cards (but no red) last weekend.

The Heart will be glad to be back in front of their home crowd here and with the Gold Coast's complete lack of experience a simple win awaits.

**Kiss of Death
Heart 3-1 Gold Coast**



Gold Coast Line Up

20.Jerrad Tyson [gk]
2.Josh Brillante
4.Zac Anderson
5.Kristian Rees
7.Golgol Mebrahtu
11.Jake Barker-Daish
14.Ben Halloran
15.Adama Traore
17.Chris Harold
21.Daniel Severino
26.Ambes Yosief
28.Daniel Bowles
29.Mitch Bevan
30.Brendan White [gk]
33.Mitch Cooper (c)

In: 11.Jake Barker-Daish (promoted), 20.Jerrad Tyson [gk] (promoted), 26.Ambes Yosief (promoted), 33.Mitch Cooper (promoted)
Out: 3.Michael Thwaite (suspended – 1 match), 16.Maceo Rigters (not selected), 24.Jonas Salley (end of short-term contract), 40.Chris O'Connor [gk] (not selected)
Unavailable: 1.Glen Moss (groin injury – 4 weeks), 6.Paul Beekmans (compassionate leave - indefinite), 9.Joel Porter (calf – 3 weeks), 10.Tahj Minniecon (foot injury – 2 weeks), 12.Dylan Macallister (hamstring – 5 weeks), 13.Ante Rozic (hamstring injury – 1 week), 18.James Brown (ankle injury – 1 week), 19.Chris Broadfoot (ankle injury – indefinite), 22.Peter Jungschlager (hip injury – 1 week), 23.Dylan McGowan (international duty)



Mariners Line Up

2. Daniel MCBREEN
3. Joshua ROSE
4. Pedj BOJIC
5. Brad PORTER
6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK
7. John HUTCHINSON
8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS
9. Bernie IBINI
10. Adriano PELLEGRINO
12. Troy HEARFIELD
13. Stuart MUSIALIK
14. Michael MCGLINCHIEY
15. Brad MCDONALD
17. Tomas ROGIC
18. Alex WILKINSON (C)
19. John SUTTON
20. Justin PASFIELD (Gk)
23. Adam KWASNIK
24. Mitchell DUKE
31. Brody CRANE (Gk)
five to be omitted

In: 4. Pedj BOJIC (returns from injury), 5. Brad PORTER (promoted), 12. Troy HEARFIELD (returns from injury), 13. Stuart MUSIALIK (promoted), 15. Brad MCDONALD (promoted), 24. Mitchell DUKE (promoted), 19. John SUTTON
Out: 16. Trent SAINSBURY, 22. Sam GALLAGHER (both suspended)
Unavailable: 1. Mathew RYAN, 11. Oliver BOZANIC, 22. Mustafa AMINI (all Qantas Australian U23 duty)

CC Mariners v Wellington Phoenix

Sat 18 Feb Bluetongue Stdm 5:30pm

By Adrian Deans

Ten weeks ago, Brisbane Roar were way out in front, playing champagne football, and it was more-or-less accepted that they'd already won the Premier's Plate. Then they fell in a five week hole and have taken another five weeks to get their game back together.

Two weeks ago, the Mariners were way out in front, and while not always playing champagne football, it was at least designer lager.

Could lightning strike twice?

Could the Mariners be brought back to the pack after leading by 11 points with a game in hand?

They did at least play reasonably well last week against the Victory, and with a different slice of luck might have got something out of the game. If Trent Sainsbury had stayed on the pitch (or if Adrian Leijer had been sent off for a tackle that was arguably worse than Sainsbury's) we might have seen a different result.

But just as 'championship' teams win dirty when not at their best, good teams can learn how to lose even when they don't deserve to on the balance of play (am I right Jim Magilton?). A team playing well but losing, therefore, can develop a fragile mental state which expects bad luck and reacts poorly to things going wrong. If you expect to lose, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

If the Mariners are getting themselves



Mariners become the hunted

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 13): Central Coast Mariners wins 6, Wellington Phoenix wins 5 (2 draws)

Odds:
Mariners 1.85
Draw 3.65
Phoenix 4.25

into such a state, there could hardly be a worse team to play than Wellington. The Phoenix are also coming off a loss, a loss they feel aggrieved about – not least the yellow cards that wiped Andrew Durante and Tim Brown out of the match against the Mariners.

Wellington have been playing great football in the last few weeks, which is a tribute both to Ricky Herbert's excellent man management and team configuration. It is also a result of the powerful team culture they have in Wellington – so strong that Manny Muscat is rumoured to have resisted approaches from both Melbourne

teams in order to stay.

That strength of culture, especially when upset by perceived injustice, is likely to inspire a big performance this week. They may not have Durante or Brown, but they will have Muscat and Daniel returning to the side.

The Mariners, meanwhile, continue in the absence of their Olyroos – all of whom were missed against the Roar and the Victory (especially Mat Ryan). They do have something to smile about with the improving performances of Tom Rogic but Bernie Ibini has gone missing in recent times – appearing to wilt against the physical intimidation of

A-League defenders. He's got some growing to do.

Mariners fans will be most interested in how John Sutton goes on his debut. They desperately need to find a way to goal after Matt Simon left for Korea.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Also available as ebook at www.mrcleansheets.com

**Kiss of Death
Mariners 1-1 Phoenix**



Phoenix Line Up

1. Mark Paston (GK)
3. Tony Lochhead
4. Brent Griffiths
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
9. Chris Greenacre
11. Daniel
12. Nicky Ward
14. Mirjan Pavlovic
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
19. Jimmy Downe
20. Tony Warner (GK)
21. Dani Sanchez
24. Alex Smith

In: Brent Griffiths (promoted), Mirjan Pavlovic (promoted), Manny Muscat (returns from suspension), Nicky Ward (returns from injury)

Out: Tim Brown, Andrew Durante (both suspended – 1 match)

Unavailable: Cameron Lindsay (international duty), Lucas Pan-telis (knee injury – indefinite)

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Roar Line Up

- 1. Michael Theoklitos (GK)
- 2. Matt Smith (C)
- 3. Shane Stefanutto
- 5. Ivan Franjic
- 6. Erik Paaratlu
- 7. Besart Berisha
- 8. Massimo Murodocca
- 10. Henrique
- 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran
- 12. Matt Mundy
- 16. Mohamed Adnan
- 17. Mitch Nichols
- 19. Jack Hingert
- 20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
- 21. James Meyer
- 22. Thomas Broich
- 24. Nick Fitzgerald
- *two to be omitted*

In: 11. Issey Nakajima-Farran, 19. Jack Hingert (promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 14. Rocky Visconte (Qantas Australian U23 duty), 4. Matt Jurman (Qantas Australian U23 duty)

Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory

Sat 18 Feb Suncorp Stadium 7:45pm

By Jarrod Ellis

With the season end marching inexorably closer each week matches gather increasing importance and this weekend's clash between Brisbane Roar and Melbourne Victory is crucial for each club's season.

Coming off back-to-back wins the Roar is attempting to close the gap between themselves and Central Coast Mariners at the top of the table whilst also holding off an in-form Wellington outfit.

Meanwhile Melbourne are continuing their pursuit of a finals place and should they collect three points from Suncorp Stadium on Saturday and other results go their way the could very well find themselves occupying sixth place on the ladder.

Victory fans have suffered several false dawns this season but after last week's crucial 2-1 win over Central Coast hopes and spirits should be high that come Saturday Melbourne will be capable of securing an important result.

Melbourne Victory manager Jim Magilton has claimed that confidence is finally oozing through the camp following the first win of his reign.

Magilton has endured a frustrating spell at the club so far with second-half fade outs costing the Victory the three points against Adelaide and Sydney, but the Northern Irishman saw plenty of good signs over the weekend.



Head-to-Head: All matches (played 20): Brisbane Roar wins 6, Melbourne Victory wins 10 (4 draws)

Odds:
Roar 1.74
Draw 3.65
Victory 4.85

Acid test awaits Magilton's men

Loan signing Ubay Luzardo and Jimmy Jeggo starred in a new-look midfield for Melbourne and it should be interesting to see how they stack up against a close to full-strength Brisbane outfit.

If midweek rumours turn out to be true the Victory are likely to be without Archie Thompson for the match, the star striker having suffered a hamstring injury at a training session.

His absence opens the door for the return of the out of favour Juan Carlos Solorzano, the Costa Rican striker who helped Brisbane claim the title last season. It has been a frustrating season for Solorzano and having

watched fellow countryman Carlos Hernandez spark into life last week-end Solorzano could be primed for a starring performance against his old club if given the opportunity.

Melbourne will need that something extra as Brisbane ran out comfortable 3-1 winners the last time the two sides met at Suncorp.

Mitch Nichols was the star man for Brisbane that night and having returned from Olyroo duty with a goal last week the Victory will do well to ensure that the midfielder has one of his off-nights.

The Brisbane camp has been boosted by the midweek announcement that fi-

ery striker Besart Berisha has signed a new two year contract, keeping him at the club until the end of the 2013/14 season.

Berisha will make just his 21st appearance for the Roar on Saturday night and after joining Sergio van Dijk as the club's highest goal-scorer in one season (13) with his well-taken volley against Wellington Phoenix last week, he's in line to take the record for himself if he finds the back of the net against Melbourne Victory.

Kiss of Death
Roar 2-1 Victory



Victory Line Up

- 1. Tando Velaphi (gk)
- 3. Fabio
- 4. Petar Franjic
- 5. Mark Milligan
- 6. Leigh Broxham
- 7. Matthew Kemp
- 9. Jean Carlos Solorzano
- 10. Archie Thompson
- 11. Marco Rojas
- 14. Billy Celeski
- 16. Carlos Hernandez
- 17. Jimmy Jeggo
- 18. Danny Allsopp
- 21. Ante Covic (GK)
- 22. Harry Kewell
- 23. Adrian Leijer (c)
- 24. Ubay Luzardo
- *two to be omitted*

In: 7. Matthew Kemp, 14. Billy Celeski (both returning from injury)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 8. Grant Brebner (injured), 13. Diogo Ferreira (Qantas Australian U23 duty), 2. Matthew Foschini (Qantas Australian U23 duty), 19. Isaka Cernak (Qantas Australian U23 duty)



Glory Line Up

- 1. Danny Vukovic (Gk)
- 3. Bas Van Den Brink
- 4. Billy Mehmet
- 5. Steve Pantelidis
- 7. Jacob Burns (C)
- 8. Adam Hughes
- 9. Shane Smeltz
- 10. Liam Miller
- 13. Travis Dodd
- 14. Steven McGarry
- 15. Tommy Amphlett
- 18. Jesse Makarounas
- 19. Josh Risdon
- 20. Neil Young
- 21. Mile Sterjovski
- 27. Andrezinho
- 35. Dean Heffernan
- *two to be omitted*

In: 15. Tommy Amphlett (Promoted), 18. Jesse Makarounas (Promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 2. Josh Mitchell (Knee), 6. Chris Coyne (Achilles), 11. Victor Sikora (Hip - Long Term Injury List), 12. Scott Neville (Knee), 16. Evan Berger (Hamstring), 17. Todd Howarth (Groin), 22. Adam Taggart (U-23 Selection)

Perth Glory v Newcastle Jets

Sat 18 Feb nib Stadium 10:00pm

By Ashley Morrison

This weekend's clash between Perth Glory and Newcastle Jets is a crucial game for both sides. It will see fourth on the Hyundai A league ladder take on the fifth placed Jets, who are just three points behind the Glory.

A win to the home side will open up a nice buffer with just five games remaining. A loss could see the Glory after a run of eight games without defeat drop out of the top four, and their hopes of a home final evaporate.

Sadly is as is often the case in the modern era of Perth Glory there are off field distractions. The club opting not to discuss renewing player or coaching contracts until the end of the season, and understandably players happy in Perth but out of contract are considering other options in order to assure their futures and those of their families.

Perth have been in a rich vein of form at home of late playing some scintillating football, they have scored eight goals in their last two outings at NIB stadium and conceded just one.

The Jets have appeared to turn the corner, and come to Perth unbeaten in their last four games and having won the last three. They have scored 10 goals in their last four games and only conceded three.

Some would say that this points to a game with a great deal of goals, but



Odds:
Glory 1.95
Draw 3.40
Jets 3.85

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 20): Perth Glory wins 9, Newcastle Jets wins 6 (5 draws)

Stakes are high in Finals push

with both teams using a pressing style, the opposite may well be the case. This game will come down to which team is the most patient, and how uses their possession to unlock the opposition.

Gary van Egmond has begun to get the Jets playing the style of football he wants them to play, but in a game that could be nip and tuck they may find that it comes down to the depth of both sides as to who snatches all three points.

Perth Glory will be without captain Jacob Burns and that will be a major blow, as this season he has been superb and the perfect foil for Liam Miller. Adam Hughes will be expected

to replace him, and will have to put in a very disciplined performance if Glory is to keep the shape they have shown in recent weeks.

Expect this to be a close game, and possibly one goal the difference, and despite the Jets current form and Glory coming off a loss last week, it would be a brave man who bet against the Glory taking the points at home. However Gary van Egmond has always relished coming across to the West and you can guarantee his team will not be making it an easy task and having picked up points on the road against Sydney and Brisbane confidence will be high. A draw is a very likely outcome.

BURNS AND MEHMET SIGN UNTIL 2014

Perth Glory captain Jacob Burns and striker Billy Mehmet have both signed new contracts with the club until the end of the 2013/14 Hyundai A-League season.

"It's fantastic, I am over the moon, really happy to be here and hopefully this year we can push into the finals again, Burns said. Burns has finished second and first in the club's Most Glorious Player award and has again starred on the field this season.

Kiss of Death
Glory 2-2 Jets



Jets Line Up

- 1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
- 2. Taylor Regan
- 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
- 5. Tiago Calvano
- 8. Jeremy Brockie
- 9. Michael Bridges
- 10. Ruben Zadkovich
- 11. Tarek Elrich
- 13. Byun
- 14. Labinot Haliti
- 17. James Virgili
- 19. Matthew Nash (gk)
- 22. Ali Abbas
- 23. Ryan Griffiths
- 24. Francis Jeffers
- 25. Jacob Pepper
- 26. Connor Chapman

In: 14. Labinot Haliti, 17. James Virgili, 26. Connor Chapman

Out: Wheelhouse (groin 2 weeks)

Unavailable: Kantarovski (Qantas Australian U23 duty)

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HUNTER SPORTS SUPERSTORE





Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
 2. Osama Malik
 3. Nigel Boogaard
 6. Cassio
 7. Zenon Caravella
 8. Evgeniy Levchenko
 9. Sergio van Dijk
 10. Dario Vidosic
 11. Bruce Djite
 13. Ricardo Da Silva
 14. Cameron Watson
 15. Jacob Melling
 17. Iain Ramsay
 18. Fabian Barbiero
 21. Francisco Usucar
 38. John Hall (gk)
- *one to be omitted*

In: Ricardo Da Silva (promoted)
Out: Nil

Unavailable: Daniel Mullen (inter national duty), Mark Birighitti (gk) (international duty), Antony Golec (international duty), Spase Dilevski (groin), Jon McKain (knee), Paul Izzo (gk) (knee)

Adelaide United v Sydney FC

Sun 19 Feb Hindmarsh Stadium 5pm

By Nic Kerber

Off the back of Adelaide United's valuable three points over Gold Coast United, attacking midfielder Dario Vidosic is confident the Reds can take this winning form into the club's two crunch matches in the next seven days.

Vidosic, who scored the winner at Skilled Park to give the Reds their first victory in seven games, arrived home with the rest of United's squad to start preparing for Thursday's one-off AFC Champions League 2012 qualifier against Indonesia's Persipura Jayapura at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Following the clash with Persipura, Adelaide United will then host Sydney FC at Hindmarsh on Sunday in what is a huge Hyundai A-League encounter in the context of the Reds' top six aspirations.

Delighted to return from the Gold Coast with three points in the bag, a buoyant Vidosic says the result has given the Reds a renewed spring in their step and is something that has them well poised for their two important upcoming matches.

"It's always good to get the three points and it probably wasn't one of our best displays in the past few weeks, but it's a funny sport," Vidosic reflected on the win over Gold Coast.

"That's the thing you need, that when you don't play well you still need to win, so we got that and now we've got a game against Persipura on Thursday so we're looking forward to that and then Sydney on Sunday."

Regardless of the issues surrounding



Odds:
AUFC 2.50
Draw 3.40
SFC 2.70

Reds face stern test of pivotal games

Head-to-Head: All matches (played 22): Adelaide United wins 9, Sydney FC wins 10 (3 draws)

the matters involving the Reds needing to play the AFC Champions League qualifier, Vidosic states the players are approaching the clash with Persipura with a do-or-die mentality.

"We look forward to it. Sometimes it's a good thing playing games, you're focused all week and we've got a very different challenge on Thursday with the AFC Champions League qualifier, we know it's a must win and we want to wrap it up in 90 minutes," Vidosic said.

"Then we look forward to Sunday against Sydney, we had a good result away against them and now we want to get the three points."

While being required to again play a stretch of three games in eight days

could be seen as a tall order, Vidosic says playing games is what football is all about and he is sure the Reds will relish the challenge, particularly with the next two games both being in front of a parochial home crowd at Hindmarsh.

"At the end it's just a football game and that's what we love to do and we're looking forward to hopefully coming out in front of a packed Hindmarsh," Vidosic said.

"For plenty of us it will be the first AFC Champions League game we've played and we'll make sure we go out and do the job."

Despite being forced to juggle an AFC Champions League qualifier and a Hyundai A-League game in quick succession,

Vidosic does not believe there will be any problems getting up for them and that there is no shortage of incentive to win.

"We kind of feel that it's our spot that they (Persipura) want to take away from us and there's no chance we'll let them come here and take our spot, that's for sure," Vidosic said.

"You want to treat every game like it's a Champions League Final, and especially with six rounds to go (in the Hyundai A-League), we want to win as many as possible and push for the top six and we won't give up until it's impossible to make it."

**Kiss of Death
AUFC 2-2 SFC**



Sydney FC Line Up

1. Liam Reddy
3. Jamie Coyne
4. Pascal Bosschaart
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Hirofumi Moriyasu
7. Brett Emerton
8. Karol Kisel
9. Bruno Cazarine
10. Nick Carle
12. Shannon Cole
15. Terry McFlynn
16. Joel Chianese
18. Juho Makela
20. Ivan Necevski
21. Scott Jamieson
22. Nathan Sherlock
23. Rhyann Grant
24. Mitch Mallia (three to be omitted).

In: Jamie Coyne (promoted), Terry McFlynn (returns from injury), Juho Makela (promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: Dimi Petratos (Qantas Australian U23 duty), Sebastian Ryall (hamstring – 2 weeks), Mark Bridge (ankle – 3 weeks), Terry Antonis (hamstring, 1 week)

A-League finals pursuit hits top gear

performance of the season last weekend, lacking any sense of imagination or creativity throughout the 90 minutes.

Suspension to young defender Curtis Good will test Heart's depth, with a flurry of players unavailable due to injury and Olyroos duties, while the inclusion of midfield architect Fred will come as an added bonus when Heart entertains cellar-dweller Gold Coast United, a club in turmoil – the Surfers Paradise club will field a vastly inexperienced line-up with only two players over the age of 23, while the bizarre decision to hand 17-year-old A-League debutant Mitch Cooper the captain's armband has caused drama, with club owner Clive Palmer standing-down coach Miron Bleiberg indefinitely for allegedly belittling the club's decision at a media conference on Wednesday.

However, given the catastrophic circumstances surrounding the glitter strip club, Heart has no excuses to fall back on if it cannot sweep aside a depleted team on home soil. Anything but a win will be acceptable, and if accomplished, could possibly springboard a resurgence towards a maiden finals showing.

Meanwhile, Victory – inundated with poor results, off-field drama and for the most part, an uninspiring game-structure – finally had reason to cheer last weekend, prevailing over A-League pacesetter Central Coast in a confidence-boosting display at AAMI Park. The 2-1 triumph was Jim Magilton's first victory – after being restricted to a frustrating four draws and a loss – since taking over the reins from Mehmet Durakovic mid-January.

In a commanding performance from the navy blues, crowd favourite Carlos Hernandez was back to his flamboyant best, scoring an awe-inspiring goal in the opening



Newcastle Jets are making a strong case for finals football in the run home.

Photo: BEN NEVILLE

period, while playing a pivotal role in getting his side across the line. Harry Kewell also scored a stunning goal, which eventually proved to be the winner.

The result was important, although it will give Victory's ardent supporter base a sense of optimism knowing it can play an attractive, yet imposing brand of football against the best in the competition. While many may believe the work of Hernandez and Kewell were the primary catalysts to claiming the three points, it was the reshuffle by Magilton which proved to be a coaching master stroke.

With Spanish recruit Ubay Luzardo deputising in the heart of defence, Mark Milligan shifted into a holding midfielder's role – demoting the out-of-favour Leigh Broxham to the bench – while young prodigy Jimmy Jeggo, 19, was given his starting-debut in the first team, playing a central midfield role just in front of Milligan. The reorganisation worked a beat, as it allowed for a fluid transition in the centre of the park, linking coherently in the attacking final third – an area Victory was rather lethargic in recent weeks.

With a change in personnel and optimism

surging around the squad, it could well be the vehicle for a tilt at playing finals football. Saturday night's trip to Suncorp Stadium against defending champions Brisbane Roar will be a stern test for Victory, as it endeavours to replicate the style of football it showcased against the Mariners.

Sydney FC's prospects of making the top-six received a boost, putting in a brilliant second half performance to overcome Perth Glory 2-1 at the Sydney Football Stadium. Remarkably, it was only the home side's third win on home turf this season, and although it hasn't reached the lofty

heights many anticipated with Socceroo Brett Emerton on its books, the Sky Blues know destiny is in its own hands, now equal on points with the sixth-placed Heart, who are in a torrid run of form.

With Emerton arguably playing his best game for the club over the weekend – which included a scintillating strike that evoked memories of his English Premier League era – and playmaker Nicky Carle linking well in the final third, Sydney is every chance of making the play-offs, most probably at Heart's expense.

Finally, Adelaide, near the foot of the table in ninth position, kept its season alive with an important 2-1 feat over Gold Coast. After trailing early in the piece, the Reds rose above its opposition, courtesy of a Bruce Djite goal on the cusp of the interval, before marquee Dario Vidosic placed his free-kick into the back of the net after 60 minutes.

It leaves John Kosmina's men on 23 points – four points shy of the finals platform it aspires to reach – heading into Sunday's pivotal clash with rival Sydney FC at Hindmarsh Stadium. In what is a hectic week for the South Australian club, a gruelling schedule will see it play two games over a three-day period – with Thursday night's Asian Champions League qualifier against Indonesian outfit Persipura Jayapura coming from left-field, after the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling the Indonesian team eligible to participate in Asia's continental tournament.

In a battle against adversity, the Reds know a loss on the weekend will most definitely kill off any ambitions of playing in the A-League finals. While a draw will mathematically keep it at bay, a win a home is a must, if Adelaide seriously considers itself a realistic contender for the top-six.

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PICS OF ROUND 20



Heart's Rutger Worm and Jets' Byun Sung-Hwan fly high in the clash at Hunter Stadium. Photo: BEN NEVILLE



Referee Chris Beath shows Cameron Watson the yellow card. Cameron probably wished a red card so he could grab an early bath and escape the rain. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page



Ball boys and girls line up before taking their positions around the field at AAMI Park. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Youngsters at Victory v Mariners give the thumbs up to a top afternoon of football. Photo: TIM SIZE



Where the sun don't shine! Gold Coast fans get that sinking feeling after their team gave their all, but once again come up agonisingly short. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Travelling Mariners fans make the trip down south to cheer on their heroes. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Victory fans are in full voice at AAMI Park, and give the Pink Floyd concert next door a run for its money. Photo: ANITA MILAS

AZIZ BEHIC

Melbourne Heart



PHOTOS/GRAPHICS: ANITA MILAS

Club Call

With Jimmy Piccolo



Arthur Wharton



I'll start this ball rolling and tell you firstly about my team:

Rotherham United F.C, Yorkshire (county), England, nicknamed "the merry millers" or "the millers", formed in 1870 as Thornhill Football Club (later Thornhill United). It took a further 55 years before the club merged with Rotherham Town to become Rotherham United and their first kit colour was a yellow shirt with black shorts and socks.

For the next three years the club developed and the kit changed like a set of traffic lights, (if you have colour blindness!) from yellow to amber to red. The black was lost and white appeared, so the red and white strip was adopted and remains to this day.

Our home is currently the Don Valley stadium, which has seen the likes of the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan play (music not football!). Don Valley has a capacity of 25,000, although only just over 7000 have turned up to see Rotherham Play there. Our best attendance recorded (at Millmoor) was over 25,000 v. Sheffield United. The stadium is also host to world track and field events in Athletics. Although our traditional home is Millmoor, the club were in financial turmoil and a legal battle that saw United leave Millmoor for the last time in 2008.

So our beloved "Tivoli end", where I would stand singing behind the goal, has long gone, but not the memories of two promotions as Champions of the division (3rd and 4th tier) in the 1980's,

or the visits of Manchester United, Newcastle United, Everton and Leeds United, to name but a few.

Things are on the up now though. We have a superb new stadium being built, "New York Stadium", and will no longer have to travel towards Sheffield to watch our local team. Now the awesome looking new stadium is within sight of our beloved Millmoor and ready to let us in to our new home for the first time next season!

The first ever black professional footballer, Arthur Wharton (born on the Gold Coast, Ghana), was introduced by Rotherham United F.C. We were the first team to win a penalty shootout in the FA cup (1991), the first team to score in a league cup final in 1961.

We have celebrity supporters too! Jamie Oliver, the world famous chef, has worn the red and white shirt and cooked for the fans outside the ground. Chris Wolstenholme, the bass player for MUSE, is a lifelong supporter, and also television stars and childrens entertainers "The Chuckle Brothers" are honorary life presidents of our club. Ok, so we haven't won the Champions League and the chances of reaching the Premiership are slim, although if we can get out of division two, one, The Championship and then maybe, just maybe, we'll arrive!

Still, we have been close before. Ronnie Moore, ex-player and top marksman, became our manager in 1997 and to date is our most successful of all time. He gave us two consecutive

promotions and kept us within shouting distance of the world's most watched division - the Premiership. Sadly, it was not to be, and over time we returned to the lower leagues.

So, highs and lows like all clubs. We have felt the pain of relegation and the joys of promotion, and had the likes of such legends as: Emlyn Hughes (former Liverpool player), Mark Robbins (former Manchester United player) Archie Gemmill and John McGovern (European cup winners under the late Brian Clough for Nottingham Forest) and Tommy Docherty (Scotland, Chelsea and Arsenal) all at the helm of our beloved Rotherham United.

So that's it in a nutshell. I could go on about how we thrashed Oldham once 8-0 in a league match or maybe tell you about Jack Shaw banging five goals past Darlington in the '50s or Gladstone Guest scoring 130 goals for our club from the 40's to the 50's, not to mention we once got thumped 1-11 in a shocker! (record defeat).

Anyway, I'm off for now. All this thinking about my team has turned me onto sticking a pukka pie in the oven for a bite to eat. Why do pies always taste best after a couple of pints at home matches anyway? Perhaps to draw a crowd the club secretly lace the pie with chemicals that make you crave it! Nah, it's simply love of being there with the noise and the chanting and screaming your team on to grab the winner... "UP THE MILLERS!!", as we say in Rotherham.

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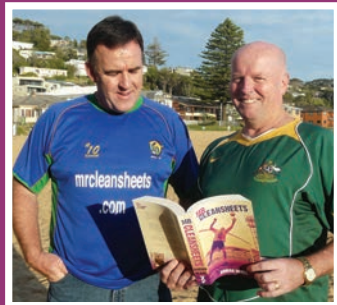
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FM Tops My Xmas List

By Simon Pearson

As a kid growing up, every Christmas there would be a badly wrapped present under the tree. It was round, it rolled and bounced. By the time Christmas morning came, I had almost kicked off the wrapping paper to reveal the obvious... Yes! Another football, thanks Santa! (Sorry kids, but really it was my late Grandfather who was responsible for the ball, not Santa). It wasn't the most expensive of footballs, but a ball was a ball, or as we called them back then, a 'casey'.

On my ninth birthday, I was so excited I ran down stairs and yanked the curtains open to let the light in. I had a sneaky feeling I would be wearing a shiny new footie kit to show off at school. The curtain rail came crashing down, pulling away plaster from the wall. I looked at my mother aghast. She had been smiling at me and continued to smile through gritted teeth, hiding her annoyance at the small disaster. After all, it was her only son's special day!

Within minutes, I was dressed head to foot in my first full strip... LIVERPOOL F.C. All red with ironed-on lettering that spelled out the sponsor: Hitachi. The kit was two sizes too large, but I didn't care. I was now Kenny Dalglish(!) in my shiny shorts that would slide down my backside as I tore down the wing, having forgotten to fasten the draw string. The shirt was itchy, a rough type of polyester, and the sponsor lettering would peel away before long so that I would now be sponsored by 'tachi'. I was still Kenny Dalglish though, orchestrating play, sliding the killer pass through for my pals or going on a jinking, mazy run, nutmegging chubby Dave before seeing my expert goal debated: Would it have hit the post and gone out? Ridiculous! It definitely went in off Brown's tracksuit top and Spam's Dunlop school bag!

Years went by, and several other team strips. I played Sunday League football, represented two towns, won a trip to the Italia '90 World Cup for fair play after five years at my club - not one booking for any of us! I scored sublime goals, played against the French, Italians and a South American team on a bone dry, knee-shredding and stony turf the day before my beloved England were to get knocked out of the cup by the Germans.

Gazza, our hero, wept and made our nation proud again.

Eventually I hung up my boots, finishing up as the players' 'player of the year' as my goalkeeping NO1 jersey was laid to rest. My knees had had enough. Besides, I was playing bass and singing in a band, so early morning Sunday football didn't have the same appeal to my hung-over head after giggling on a Saturday night. My time collecting dangerous in-swinging corners in my muddy goalmouth as a forty-year-old, overweight builder charged at me, ready to head-butt me into the net still clutching the ball WERE OVER.

So I didn't make it to my dream and follow in my late Grandfather's footsteps (he turned down a chance to sign for Arsenal shortly after the Blitz, as my Grandmother felt London, a.k.a. 'the big smoke', was unsafe to live in). Once a footballer, always a footballer though, and so to fill the void I went to watch the matches. Sometimes the local pub teams, but luckily for me I now live in London, where some of the best stadiums are. I can get to West Ham's place Upton park for a sing-song of 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles', or to Craven Cottage to watch Fulham get thrashed by Manchester City and dance around with the Man C. fans doing the 'Poznan'.

But what do I do when there is no footie on to watch? Well, I play FM of course, the world's number one online football manager game and probably the greatest discovery since 'THE TINNY'. I kid you not. Go to www.footiemanager.com and see for yourself. It has only one fault... I didn't find it sooner!! Footie Manager was created in 2001 by some sort of mad footie scientist God-like bloke. The game is constantly being tweaked and improved for maximum playability. It looks great, plays great and I would go so far as to say it is actually magical. There is nothing run-of-the-mill about Footie Manager.

Let's start at the beginning. Footie Manager is free to play (simply log on and register some quick details like your name). Now choose your team from one of the hundreds available - maybe Tottenham Hotspurs or Inter Milan? Or if you prefer, take a lower league team in Scotland Division 3 like East Fife. The choice is all yours, buddy. Ok, so you've chosen Compostela in the Spanish

2nd tier. Well, that's great news because you have a 22-man squad there, plenty of youth players mixed with some veterans, a youth Academy already built (wow!), AND 4 million quid in the kitty for transfers - good choice, buddy! You don't want that centre forward though mate, do you? Nah, he's rubbish! Tell you what, sell him to me for 1.5 million and I'll give him a try in my team, BLACKPOOL F.C., OR how about a loan mate? I'll take him for 12 weeks.

So much to do here on Footie Manager; staff to employ, team tactics and formations to figure out, weather reports to look at and the stadium to maintain. Figure it all out though and read your in-depth match report Saturday night or mid-week (the game is played in real time). Then you may make it into the HALL OF FAME as one of the greatest managers around. Not an easy task though, mate, with thousands of managers from all over the world fighting for promotion or against relegation.

I gotta tell you, friends, this game is highly addictive, so more great news! I started with a free team in Portugal and after two full season I am still manager. I love it so much I upgraded to the premium version and paid a tiny amount of cash for loads of extra features. For a full season, which lasts months, it costs me the same as about three pints of bitter... Yes, that's all. If you don't want to upgrade, no worries mate, you can play the FREE version as long as you like. When team selection is driving you potty, chill out and talk Cricket or rugby on the Footie Forum with some of the guys, or talk films, books or UFO'S if that's your thing. Whatever you decide, it's up to you. You are the manager.

Well, I may be too old now to smash a dipping volley in from 35 yards, but at least I can sit back in the comfort of my room, drink my brew and read my scout reports on the lightning-quick Columbian wing-back the club have been tracking for weeks. Looks like I can sign him! I have enough cash in the bank now after the sale of my retiring midfielder, Sean Tiatto, the Aussie maestro with the dynamite left boot!

WWW.FOOTIEMANAGER.COM Check it out, lads (and lasses welcome). Believe me, it's awesome!

Victory holds ten-men Mariners



Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (Mariners) battles with Kwabene Boahene, while Hernan Espindola follows up for Victory. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Heart Goal scorer Zac Walker gets a double high five from Fred. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

By Daniel Quinn

Melbourne Victory have held ten-men Central Coast Mariners to a 0-0 draw at Kingston Heath on Saturday afternoon.

Central Coast had the first chance of the game on six minutes when forward Mitchell Duke tested Tando Velaphi from distance but the senior goalkeeper got behind the ball to save.

On 28 minutes Velaphi again denied Duke, this time with his feet after Kwabena Appiah-Kubi's great through ball, but it remained scoreless.

Right on the brink of half-time Victory had their best chance of the half. James Riccobene crossed a great low ball but Luke O'Dea couldn't get on the end of it, however Espindola was at the back post to shoot from a very acute angle. But Nicholas Littler was on the line to clear for the visitors.

Five minutes into the second stanza Joshua Da Silva missed a great chance from point blank range as Velaphi did enough to preserve the number eleven.

Anthony Caceres was next to try his chances from distance with a great long ranged effort but Velaphi made an outstanding save in a fantastic performance.

On 63 minutes Central Coast were down to ten. Sam Gallagher was sent off for an aggressive challenge on John Buceto as the defender went through the back of the little diminutive midfielder.

Despite having one man fewer Mariners pushed and Caceres again drove from dis-

tance but the time the effort bounced wide. Victory went right up the other end with second-half substitute Luc Jeggo and he tested Mitchell with a fantastic effort from outside the box but Mitchell made a brilliant save to deny the 17-year-old.

On 69 minutes Nick Ansell pulled back Da Silva on the edge of the box and a penalty was awarded. However for the third time in four games Velaphi saved the penalty, this time denying Duke's low effort.

Espindola and Jeggo caused some late problems for the ten men of Central Coast as they both shot from distance but Mitchell was in the way to make some great saves.

Dado Lovkovic almost stole all three points with four minutes to go but his long ranged curler missed by inches.

Espindola too should have won the game for the hosts but his poor finishes from Daniel Chaabani's crosses were poor as the Argentine born winger ran out of steam before Chaabani too shot over.

Melbourne Victory coach Darren Davies was pleased with a point against the league leaders. "I think performance wise I was actually very happy. I think we probably passed the ball better than we did against the Heart the week before when we got a win so I was actually really, really pleased considering they are top of the league."

Heart and Reds finish in red stalemate Melbourne Heart and Adelaide United have finished 1-1 with both sides down to ten after a fiery tie at John Cain Memorial

Park on Sunday afternoon.

Melbourne Heart thought they opened the scoring on four minutes but Fred's tap in from a couple yards out was ruled out for offside.

Adelaide went very close too on 11 minutes. Awer Mabil shot with the outside of his foot from 25 yards out but his fantastic effort hit the crossbar.

On 14 minutes The Reds were down to ten when Jonathan Mavromatis was given a straight red card for a reckless challenge on Brodie Patterson.

Zac Walker opened the scoring on 24 minutes to give the hosts the lead. Bosnjak's effort was deflected and fell for Walker who finished into the bottom corner.

With less than ten minutes to go before half-time Adelaide hit the woodwork once again with Liam Wooding whose right-footed curling effort looked destined for goal.

Heart went right up the other with Jeremy Walker whose great cross was headed towards goal by first-half substitute Stipo Andrijašević but Vaughan made a great save once again.

Five minutes into the second stanza Teeboy Kamara equalised with a tap-in after Mabil's low cross.

Soon later Kamara should have scored a two minute brace but Thomas Dunn saved well to deny the Liberian born forward.

On 70 minutes both sides were down to ten when Andrijašević was sent off with a double-footed, reckless challenge.

Patterson next danced into the box with five minutes left but he couldn't finish and as the

ball fell for Zac Walker the forward's effort too was blocked.

The ball then fell for Kliment Taseski who played his first game of the season after a fractured foot. He was found on the right side of the box but his left foot curling effort went agonisingly wide of Vaughan's net.

Jets vs. Gold Coast United abandoned Friday's night clash between Newcastle Jets and Gold Coast United at Adamstown Oval was abandoned after just 15 minutes of play.

There was a huge storm before kick-off which made the first 15 minutes unsafe for the players and once Mitch Cooper slipped the referee Andrew Higgins called it off. The game will be rescheduled at a date to be advised.

Harry O'Brien brace snatched win for Glory

A Harry O'Brien brace has snatched all three points at Sydney Football Stadium for the visitors Perth Glory on Saturday.

Sydney had the opening chance of the game when Blake Powell shot but Lewis Italiano made a good save.

Soon after Powell tried again, this time from distance but Italiano made another great save to keep it scoreless.

Ndumba Makeche got to the ball first soon later but fired across the face of goal to give Perth their first chance.

Just before half-time Harry O'Brien opened the scoring from close range against the run

of the play.

On 65 minutes Sydney were down to ten when Daniel Petkovski was sent off for shoving Makeche.

But four minutes later the ten-man Sydney equalised when Caleb Rufer's strike was saved by Italiano which was followed-up by Jason Madonis who slotted home.

O'Brien however had the last say when he fired past Ryan Norval in stoppage time to take all three points.

Roar smash the AIS

Brisbane Roar on Saturday at the AIS Track have smashed the AIS 11-2 with hat-tricks to Issey Nakajima-Farran, Anthony Proia and Matthew Thurtell.

Proia opened the scoring on 14 minutes when finished past Jordan Thurtell after great lead up work by Nakajima-Farran.

On 54 minutes Nakajima-Farran scored his first with a powerful finish into the top corner.

On 24 minutes Proia was pushed over in the box and Kofi Danning stepped up and extended the lead.

But the AIS got one back thanks to John Karatzas who drove his effort past Matthew Acton in goals.

Nakajima-Farran next cut back to Proia who scored from close range. 4-1 if you have lost the score.

Proia then scored his hat-trick just before the break. The AIS graduate ran through the defence and slotted past Jordan Thurtell.

Four minutes into the second stanza Na-

Results	
Newcastle Jets P-	P Gold Coast United
Melbourne Victory 0-0	CC Mariners
AIS 2-11	Brisbane Roar
Sydney FC 1-2	Perth Glory
Melbourne Heart 1-1	Adelaide United

NYL Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 CC Mariners	16 10 2 4 35 13 22 32
2 Perth Glory	15 8 5 2 33 26 7 29
3 Brisbane Roar	15 7 4 4 44 30 14 25
4 Gold Coast United	14 7 2 5 30 24 6 23
5 Sydney FC	15 6 3 6 35 26 9 21
6 Melbourne Heart	16 6 2 8 28 35 -7 20
7 Newcastle Jets	14 5 4 5 24 23 1 19
8 Adelaide United	15 4 5 6 21 28 -7 17
9 AIS	15 4 1 10 25 50 -25 13
10 Melbourne Victory	15 3 2 10 13 32 -19 11

Next Round	
Sat 18 Feb 3:00pm	Melbourne Heart Vs AIS
John Cain Memorial Park, Thornbury	
Sat 18 Feb 4:30pm	Adelaide United Vs Sydney FC
Burton Park	
Sun 19 Feb 3:00pm	Brisbane Roar Vs Melbourne Victory
Cleveland Showgrounds, Cleveland	
Sun 19 Feb 4:00pm	Gold Coast United Vs CC Mariners
Owen Park, Southport	
Sun 19 Feb 5:00pm	Perth Glory Vs Newcastle Jets
6PR Stadium, Inglewood	

kajima made it 6-1 with a tap in at the back post.

Less than two minutes later Matthew Thurtell scored his first with a first time effort which was deflected.

On 54 minutes Nakajima-Farran scored his hat-trick as his effort came off the upright before crossing the line.

Stefan Mauk did get one back on 73 minutes with a good finish.

With the minutes to go Matthew Thurtell made it 9-2 with his second on the third attempt.

Jason Geria made it 10-2 with a good finish after a quick free-kick.

In stoppage time Matthew Thurtell scored his hat-trick to finish it up 11-2.

Greater Geelong Cup

North power away in CoGG Cup

By Roy Hay

North Geelong secured a place in the 2012 City of Greater Geelong Cup final with its third win in succession in this year's tournament at Bell Park Sports Club.

Rangers started brightly and might have gone ahead through Andrew Husband whose shot was saved by David Zilic. The Dark Blues did take the lead in the 33rd minute. David Valys rose at the far post among a ruck of players and forced the ball past the North keeper. North's equaliser came in the last minute of the first half. Michael Anderson seemed to be a metre offside but he was allowed to play on and his lobbed effort was covered by keeper Jacob Mills. However the ball squirmed away from him and went into the net off the post.

David Valys had been struggling with an injury in the first half and he eventually come off after 40 minutes to be replaced by Nathan Drazinic. Just after the hour mark Rangers' midfielder Husband was sent off for a foul on Reha Kurul and that changed the balance of the game. With its extra man North dominated the closing stages and with four minutes left Nathan Long put away the rebound after the Rangers' defence had blocked his first shot.

In the early game Corio defeated host club Bell Park by a single goal scored by Dusko Novakovic with a free kick from 25 metres in the 16th minute which beat Angelo di Mauro. Corio had Vedran Sto-



Geelong Rangers keeper Jacob Mills struggles to control the ball, while Stuart Begg covers the near post. Photo: Roy Hay.

janovic sent off for abusive language but Bell Park was unable to capitalise on its numerical advantage. Mark Gstalter and Ibi Matijara were solid in defence for Park, while Elton Savice caused problems for them on the flanks for Corio.

On Friday night, North overcame a plucky Bell Park side by two goals to nil. In miserable conditions for the players with strong wind and heavy showers North scored two goals late in the first half through Nathan Long and Damian Morell. They came after Park's Joshua Berta was sent for a bad tackle. Long's was at the end of a goal-mouth scramble, but Morell's was another long range strike of considerable power. On opening night he had a similar goal as he timed his run on to a driven cross from the wing. There were no goals

in the second half.

In the early game on Friday, both Surfcoast and Geelong fielded half-a-dozen under-18s in the spirit of the pre-season competition and the match was tightly contested. Alan Dower, playing his first game for Surfcoast pressurised the Geelong defence after a throw in and won the ball, then ran through to score. Geelong got its equaliser with a free kick with five minutes left to play scored by Ivica Praiz.

Tonight (Friday) Geelong plays Bell Park at 6 pm followed by North Geelong against Surfcoast at 7.10 pm. Then on Sunday night it is Surfcoast versus Geelong Rangers and then Corio takes on Geelong.

By Joe Zilic

With a couple of years under its belts now since their return to State League 1, the Warriors are feeling like their investment in youth and development is just starting to show its first signs of reward.

With a strong emphasis on promoting the local talent, North Geelong strives to be every player's and coach's outlet to participate in the highest possible grade of the game before venturing onto Premier League or beyond. In recent years we've seen 4 players from the North Geelong fold make it to A League selection and there is vision in sight for more to come. Laura Spiranovic has been selected by the Melbourne Victory Women's Team, Matthew Demo and Marko Stevanja have been at the Melbourne Victory Youth System in recent years and Tom Dunne at Melbourne Heart.



Three of North Geelong's up and coming youngsters, from left to right - Nathan Long, Justin Hanns and Michael Anderson.

history of success", comments president Daniel Desa.

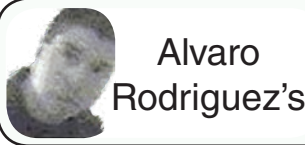
The clubs success at promoting the developing youth comes at a cost though, as young players develop a taste for senior football they look for regular opportunities to start and often take offers from elsewhere which provides North Geelong with the challenges of developing its own talent as well as scouting for up an coming new talent to start the process again. It's definitely an exciting time to be a part of the Warriors.

This year the club celebrates it's 45th Anniversary and it has also been 20 years since it's Premier League Championship. The club has come a long way over the years so much so that this year the club is proud to announce its first Under 12s girls only team and there is also group forming for the Under 15s girls only team which will feed into the Senior Women's team who play in the State League Div2. There are opportunities for players to join the Warriors under 18s and 21s teams, of particular interest are Goalkeepers to join these squads. If the are players and even coaches who are interested in joining the Warriors junior and youth set up you can email the club secretary@northgeelongsc.com.au and forward your details for us to get back to you.

We wish all the clubs well for 2012 and we urge the Greater Geelong Region to get behind us and help us continue providing wonderful opportunities for the youth of region.

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Planet Football Uzbekistan



NAME: Uzbekistan
CAPITAL: Tashkent
POPULATION: (2012 approx.) 29,559,100
CONFEDERATION: AFC
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Asian Games gold-medalists 1994
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 67th
ASIAN CUP APPEARANCES: 1996-2011

WHO ARE YA?
The Republic of Uzbekistan is situated in Central Asia, and bordered by no less than five countries(most notably Kazakhstan in terms of area).

The earliest evidence of human habitation in what is now Uzbekistan dates back to around 1800 BC, after which the land underwent constant ethnographic and political changes which have added to/redefined its national identity over the centuries, beginning with Alexander the Great's annexation of the land from the Persians, then centuries later the advent of the Islamic faith and its introduction by coverted ethno-Persians, Arabs and Turkic peoples, and their intermarriage with the indigenous Uzbeks, resulting in a culture somewhat similar to that of China's Muslim Uighur minority.

This Islamized society came under attack from Genghis Khan during the 13th Century, although conquered by him the Uzbek lands splintered off into warring factions after his death; the warlord Timur/Tamerlane then arose as one of the Uzbek peoples' great folk heroes.

An earlier Uzbek fable about the 'Treasure of Samarkand' bears resemblance to that of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, in an example of the cultural cross-pollination that the earlier Islamization had brought.

However chaos descended upon the people after Timur's death, which would be compounded some 450 years later when the Russian Empire invaded and annexed the land for the tsarist Romanov dynasty(introducing Orthodox Christianity and emigres of Russian and Ukrainian descent, adding to the land's melting-pot) - although the dynasty's grip on Uzbekistan ended with the October Revolution of 1917, the Bolsheviks duly incorporated Uzbekistan into the fledgling Soviet Union, which it would remain a part of until 1991 when Uzbekistan seceded from the USSR and Islam Karimov, a former Communist Party official became the country's first and only president to date.

Karimov's continuous rule has not been without its critics, both internal and external although in recent years he has presented a new face to the West by way of his cracking-down on Islamic extremism in the region, although he firmly remains an autocratic figure in the region's political sphere.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?
Uzbekistan was quick to make an impact in world football following its affiliation to FIFA and the AFC upon independence, winning the 1994 Asian Games' football gold-medal in Japan at the first attempt, defeating China 4-2 in the Final. They also qualified for the Asian Cup at their first attempt, the 1996 edition held in the UAE although they failed to progress from their group, and reached the final qualifying group-stage for France '98 although only finished 4th in Group B, ahead of Kazakhstan.

Although they have routinely reached the final group-stage of Asian WC qualifying since then, it wasn't until the Germany '06 qualifiers that they came closest - qualifying for the third-place playoff against Bahrain which would if victorious see them through to the intercontinental playoff against the CONCACAF region's 4th-placed nation, Trinidad & Tobago. The Uzbeks got off to a great start in the first leg vs. Bahrain, win-



Uzbekistan's Abdukakhkhor Khojiakbarov duels with the Olyroos' Rocky Visconte in the recent Olympic qualifier.



Just in case the GPS isn't working...

ning 1-0 before the AFC's shock ruling that as the Uzbek goal had apparently been the result of a refereeing error, the tie had to be replayed. The Bahrainis made the most of this reprieve, holding the Uzbeks to a 1-all draw in Tashkent before again holding their opponents 0-0 in Manama, incredulously ending Uzbekistan's WC dream - although the Bahrainis would falter against Dwight Yorke's Soca Warriors, who would progress to their maiden WC appearance.

Despite this disappointment, the Uzbeks have the distinction of having qualified for every single Asian Cup since their 1996 debut, reaching the semi-finals against Australia in last year's edition before being humiliated 6-0 by the Socceroos, and later losing the third-place match 3-2 to South Korea.

By virtue of this being the furthest they have ventured in an Asian Cup finals, expectations run fairly high that they can qualify for their maiden WC finals in Brazil 2014.

BIG CLUBS
Tashkent giants Pakhtakor are the nation's flagship club with a proud history - founded in 1956, they were the only Uzbek club to ever play in the Soviet Union's top-flight - the Soviet Supreme League - spending 22 seasons at the top between 1960 and 1991, with their highest-ever league finish - sixth - achieved twice, in 1962 and 1982. They also reached the Soviet Cup Final in the 1967/68 season, losing 1-0 to Torpedo Moscow.

Nevertheless they became the only club from one of the Central Asian republics to reach the Final. A dark page in the club's Soviet-era history was the Dniprodzerzhynsk air tragedy in 1979, which saw a mid-air collision between two aircraft over the city of Dniprodzerzhynsk in what is now the Ukraine, result in the deaths of all passengers and crew of both planes - 178

people in all, including the 17 players and coaching-staff of Pakhtakor. The club duly reorganised itself and won promotion back to the Soviet top tier in a show of resilience not unlike Manchester United's 'Busby Babes' of 1958 and the Zambian NT of 1993 after their respective air tragedies - to this day Pakhtakor sponsors an annual youth tournament in honour of those lost in the 1979 crash.

The club was quick to impose its authority post-independence, joint-winning the inaugural Uzbek League title with FK Neftchi Farg'ona in 1992 and a further 7 times outright since, as well as 11 Uzbek Cup wins(including last season's) and finishing runners-up twice(1996 & 2008). The club's best finish in continental competition was losing semi-finalists in the 2002/03 and 2004 editions of the Asian Champions League, eliminated by Thailand's BEC Tero Sasana and South Korea's Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma(future ACL winners in 2010, captained by Socceroo Saša Ogrenovskii!) respectively.

The aforementioned FK Neftchi is the next-best performed club with 5 titles including the joint-win with Pakhtakor in '92, and finishing second on 9 occasions as well as two cup wins so far. They have 9 continental appearances to their name(one behind Pakhtakor), with their best finish being 3rd in the 1994/95 edition of the Asian Club Championship(forerunner of the current Champions League) after elimination in the semis by Thai Farmers Bank, wherein they clashed with who else but Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma in the third-place match, which Neftchi won 1-0.

However a cashed-up, new upstart in the form of FC Bunyodkor has threatened the establishment in the last few seasons, making headlines in 2008 for attempting to sign Samuel Eto'o, then still at Barcelona! Although he rejected their advances, Bunyodkor duly snapped up Brazilian star Ri-

valdo and iconic compatriot Zico as coach instead. The club made its assault upon the 2008 Asian Champions League, reaching the semifinals against Adelaide United before being eliminated 3-1 by the Aurelio Vidmar-led Reds 3-1 on aggregate, who in turn qualified for the Japan-hosted World Club Cup despite being eliminated by J-League champs Gamba Osaka in the ACL Final. Zico left the club soon afterward only to be replaced by countryman Luiz Felipe Scolari - 2002 WC-winning coach with Brazil and Portugal in 2006 - who in turn stepped down in 2010.

Though the current Bunyodkor squad lacks the pizzazz of its counterpart 4 years ago it does boast the services of former Red Star Belgrade defender Slavoljub Đorđević, and just this week snapped up Socceroo David Carney after his stint at Liga Adelante(Spanish second-division) side AD Alcorcón came to a fruitless end; and will be looking to make an impact in the upcoming Asian Champions League campaign.

REP YOUR COLORS
Nicknamed the White Wolves, the Uzbek NT wears an all-white strip with blue or black trimmings; the away replaces white with blue. As for the clubs, Pakhtakor wear a blue/yellow-striped kit virtually identical to that of Turkish giants Fenerbahçe except using a darker shade of blue, with blue shorts instead of white. Neftchi wear all-green and all-white with inverted trims home-and-away, whilst Bunyodkor wear a predominantly navy-blue kit, and an all-white number away.

MATCHWINNERS
Maksim Shatskikh is arguably Uzbekistan's greatest-ever player, a striker whose career has spanned nearly 20 years and seen him play 10 years for Ukrainian powerhouse Dynamo Kiev, signing on in 1999 as the replacement for Andriy Shevchenko!

Currently playing for Arsenal Kiev after a stint with Kazakhstan's FC Astana, he amassed 97 goals in 215 games for Dynamo, as well as 60 caps and 34 goals for his country. Midfielder and current national captain Server Djeparov has already surpassed him in terms of senior caps(80), and despite a club career thus far confined to Asia(he currently plays for Saudi Arabia's Al-Shahab after stints with FC Seoul and both Pakhtakor & Bunyodkor), he has already been crowned Asian Player of the Year twice, in 2008 and last year 2011.

Other stalwarts of the White Wolves include Alexander Geynrikh(currently with UAE side Emirates Club), midfielder Timur Kapadze(of fellow UAE club Al Sharjah) and defender Vitaliy Denisov of Ukraine's Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk. In all, the current Uzbek side is a mixed sprinkling of home and foreign-based players although few of those ply their trade far from home, with China, Russia, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine as favoured playing destinations

SO WHAT NOW?
The Uzbeks are waiting on the conclusion of Asia's WC third-round qualifying group stage, having sealed progress out of second-round Group C alongside Japan, eliminating the resurgent North Korea in the process.

Just recently the Uzbek Olympic team put a serious dent in Australia's hopes of qualifying for London 2012 with a 2-0 snow-bogged win against the Olyroos in Tashkent, perhaps demonstrating the potential of the next generation of Uzbek players - nonetheless, the country will be itching to break its WC qualifying duck for Brazil 2014 and showcase itself to the world.

<div>SBS ONE</div> <div>Sunday February 19th</div> <div>10:30 AM Europa League Highlights</div> <div>11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - AC Milan v Arsenal</div> <div>12:00 PM UEFA Champions League Magazine Program</div> <div>Wednesday 22 Feb</div> <div>SBS ONE</div> <div>6:30am Live (aedt) - UEFA Champions League: Napoli v Chelsea</div> <div>SBS TWO</div> <div>9:30pm Delayed - UEFA Champions League: CSKA Moscow v Real Madrid</div> <div>Thursday 23 Feb</div> <div>SBS ONE</div> <div>6:30am Live (aedt) - UEFA Champions League: Olympique Marseille v Inter Milan</div> <div>Friday 24 Feb</div> <div>SBS ONE</div> <div>6:45am Live (aedt) - UEFA Europa League: Manchester United v Ajax</div> <div>Saturday 25 February</div> <div>SBS TWO</div> <div>7:00pm Delayed - UEFA Europa League: Manchester City v Porto</div> <div>Sunday 26 February</div> <div>SBS ONE</div> <div>11.00am - Les Murray's Football Feature - Highlights UEFA Champions League: FC Basel v Bayern Munich</div> <div>SBS TWO</div> <div>Monday February 20th</div> <div>09:30 PM The World Game</div>	<div>SBS</div> <div>one</div> <div>Saturday 18th February</div> <div>06:00 am Serie A Milan V Udinese</div> <div>Sunday 19th February</div> <div>03:00 am Bundesliga Borussia Dortmund V Bayer Leverkusen</div> <div>05:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights</div> <div>06:00 am Serie A Milan V Udinese</div> <div>08:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show</div> <div>Monday 20th February</div> <div>02:35 am Liverpool TV Liverpool V Manchester United</div> <div>06:00 am Serie A Juventus V Bologna</div> <div>Tuesday 21st February</div> <div>03:00 am Arsenal TV Sunderland V Arsenal</div> <div>06:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights</div> <div>Wednesday 22nd February</div> <div>02:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights</div> <div>03:00 am Liverpool TV F.A Cup 5th Round</div> <div>06:00 am Bundesliga Hertha Berlin V Borussia Dortmund</div> <div>08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights</div> <div>FOX SPORTS</div> <div>ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE</div> <div>Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.</div> <div>Week 28</div> <div>No matches scheduled February 18-21 due to FA Cup Round 5 fixtures.</div> <div>Week 29</div> <div>Sun Feb 26 Chelsea v Bolton 1.53 am Fox 1</div> <div>Sun Feb 26 Newcastle v Wolves 1.53 am Viewers Choice</div> <div>Sun Feb 26 QPR v Fulham 1.53 am Viewers Choice</div> <div>Sun Feb 26 WBA v S'land 1.53 am Viewers Choice</div> <div>Sun Feb 26 Wigan v Aston Villa 1.53 am Viewers Choice</div> <div>Sun Feb 26 Man City v Blackburn 4.23 am Fox 1</div> <div>Mon Feb 27 Arsenal v Tottenham 12.15 am Fox 1</div> <div>Mon Feb 27 Norwich v Man U 12.23 am Fox 2</div> <div>Mon Feb 27 Stoke v Swansea 1.53 am Fox 3</div> <div>CARLING CUP Final</div> <div>Monday 27 February</div> <div>Cardiff City v Liverpool 2.30 am (Fox 1)</div> <div>ENGLISH FOOTBAL LEAGUE</div> <div>Sat Feb 18 Reading v Burnley 6.30 am Fox 1</div> <div>Sun Feb 19 Notts Forest v Coventry 1.56 am Fox 1</div> <div>Tue Feb 21 L1: Brentford v Carlisle 6.30 am Fox 1</div> <div>Fri Feb 24 Derby v Leicester 6.30 am Fox 3</div> <div>A-LEAGUE LIVE</div> <div>Fri Feb 17 Melb Heart v Gold Coast 8.00 pm</div> <div>Sat Feb 18 Central Coast v Wellington 5.30 pm</div> <div>Sat Feb 18 Brisbane v Melb Victory 7.45 pm</div> <div>Sat Feb 18 Perth v Newcastle 10.00 pm</div> <div>Sun Feb 19 Adelaide v Sydney 7.00 pm</div> <div>FOX SPORTS FC</div> <div>Tue Feb 14 8.30 pm</div> <div>Wednesday 22-Feb</div> <div>SPL St Johnstone v Aberdeen 6:00am 1st Airing</div> <div>Thursday 23-Feb</div> <div>SPL Dundee United v St Mirren 3:15am 1st Airing</div> <div>Blue Square Premier York v Gateshead 6:00am 1st Airing</div> <div>Copa Libertadores 2nd Stage Vélez Sarsfield v Chivas 11:55am LIVE</div>
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World Youth Championship 1981



BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

In 1981 Australia hosted the FIFA world youth championship for the first time. FIFA under Joao Havelange wanted to spread the game and incidentally secure his own position by giving the hosting of youth tournaments to countries outside Europe and South America where all the senior Word Cups were held. Sixteen teams took part in four groups of four in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Australia's group included Argentina, Cameroon and England and it was scheduled to play at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But at the last minute it was switched to the Sydney Showgrounds.

Australia caused an immediate upset with a two-one win over Argentina in its opening game. The Argentine team was not the strongest though it included Jorge Burruchaga who was to score the winning goal in the 1986 World Cup final. Burruchaga got Argentina's goal from the penalty spot after Steve Blair was adjudged to have brought down Juan Urruti in the 68th minute. Australia did not give up, driven by Oscar Crino and Paul Kay. Kay's free kick was headed on by David Mitchell and Mark Koussas forced the ball over the line. Koussas was immediately substituted by coach Les Scheinflug with Jim Patikas taking his place. It was into the last minute when Mitchell won another high ball, brought it down and released substitute Ian Hunter who scored from inside the goal area. Cue bedlam and celebrations for the Australians and Tom Anderson went over the top by calling this 'the greatest ever achievement by an Australian team'.

Cameroon was Australia's next opponent and Australia got an early break when Peter Raskopoulos played in David Mitchell who scored after a strong run in on goal in the 11th minute. Then Cameroon took control with three goals; one from Olle Olle and two by Bonaventure Djonkep. The last of these came in the 52nd minute, but Australia pulled one back straight away. Paul Kay was the instigator, finding Mitchell who in turn played the ball to Mark Koussas for the finish. There were only twelve minutes left when Koussas was again involved. This time he had more than a bit of luck when the referee gave a penalty after he was brought down, as the contact seemed to be outside the penalty area. Koussas ignored the Cameroon protests and scored to level the match.

The final group game was against England who had Neil Webb, Danny Wallace, Stuart Robson and Paul Allen in their line-up. England had beaten Cameroon and drawn with Argentina so the sides were level going into the match. Australia dominated the early play and Peter Raskopoulos hit the bar with a 30-metre effort. Then Koussas scored after only seven minutes, turning his man in the box before beating the keeper. It was not till the 83rd minute that England got on terms when Michael Small beat Glen Ahearn from close range after a scramble in the box. So both qualified for the knock-out stage.

Sixteen thousand packed into the Bruce Stadium in Canberra for the quarter-final against West Germany. Michael Zorc and Roland Wolfarth were among the German players and it was the latter who broke

When the world's youth came to Oz



Young girls in national costumes with the Kickaburra mascot at the tournament launch. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

the deadlock in the 68th minute heading home a cross by Holger Anthes. Six minutes later Zorc brought down Koussas, who had the chance to equalise from the penalty spot, but his kick was saved by Rudiger Volborn. In the last minute, Koussas and Ian Hunter caused Volborn to drop the ball and Koussas put it into the net, but the whistle had already gone for an infringement. Nevertheless Koussas won the Golden Boot having scored four goals in four games, while the others who had four goals had played more games. Koussas was already Sydney Olympic's top scorer with eleven goals that year.

In the other quarter-finals, England beat Egypt 4-2 thanks to a Neil Webb hat-trick, Romania defeated Uruguay two-one and

Qatar upset Brazil three-two in New-castle. England was expected to meet Germany in the final, but Qatar pulled off another surprise win the semifinal by two goals to one, while Germany only managed a single goal win over Romania in extra-time at Olympic Park. Romulus Gabor, the Romanian winger, scored the only goal of the third place match to beat England and deservedly won the Golden Ball as the player of the tournament.

Qatar gave notice of its determination to make its mark in the world game by reaching the final where it was comprehensively beaten by West Germany. The final was played in pouring rain and the superior strength of the Germans told as they ran in four goals to nil, through skipper Ralf Loose, who got two, Wohlfarth

and Anthes. But along the way Qatar had knocked out Poland, USA, Brazil and England. West Germany the winner should not even have been in the finals. It finished ninth in the European Under-18 championship in 1980, which acted as the qualifying tournament. The Dutch FA decided not to travel to Australia and the Germans were invited to take their place.

Though the pre-tournament launch was a pleasant occasion with young girls in the costumes of the competing countries taking part, the subsequent organisation was often amateurish. Matches in Australia's group were supposed to have been played at the Sydney Cricket Ground but they were switched to the Showgrounds at last minute. Deutschland uber Alles

was played before England's game with Cameroon even though Germany was not in that group. The same thing happened later at Olympic Park against Israel in world cup qualifier several years later. Channel Ten's coverage of the games had some howlers too. There was crowd violence at the England versus Argentina match in the quarter-finals which occurred just before Falklands war. At least one Romanian player sought to remain in Australia after the tournament.

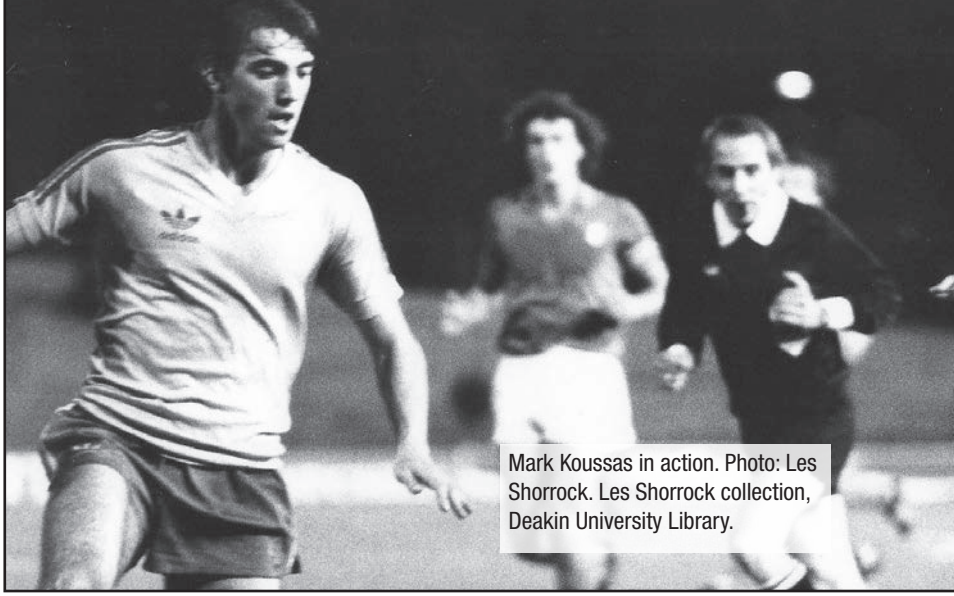
One media critic wondered how long it would be before Australia got another chance to hold such a tournament, citing what he described as the shambolic organisation in 1981. As it turned out Australia got the honour again only 12 years later in 1993.



Neil Webb of England leans back in astonishment as Argentina's Jorge Gordillo executes a bicycle kick. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



It was tough in the wet in the final between West Germany and Qatar. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



Mark Koussas in action. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Thompson Set For Return?

By Matt Galea

Matthew Thompson, Melbourne Heart vice-captain, has had something of an up and down season. It is a fate his club has shared, and the way in which his season has ebbed and flowed in tandem with his club suggests he is every bit as important to the Heart and their final prospects as Heart's returning captain Fred is.

Whilst Fred is almost a certainty to return, Matty Thompson has rated himself as only a "50/50 chance", which still marks a very rapid return to fitness, after it was initially feared he would miss at the very least a fortnight of football. The revelation comes after Thompson pulled through surprisingly well from a fitness session conducted whilst the rest of the team were away in Newcastle. Thompson was delighted to learn of his rapid progression, claiming that if he doesn't return tonight against the Gold Coast, he almost certainly will the following week when the Heart welcome the Central Coast to AAMI Park.

The news wasn't all good however, and whilst Thompson was back in Melbourne and putting himself, successfully, through his paces, the rest of his teammates were consigned to yet another defeat, falling 3-0 to an ever improving Jets side, but whilst the result and indeed the performance failed to impress, Thompson doesn't think it's all bad, and has drawn some

positives from a run of results that is beginning to seriously threaten the Heart's play off prospects:

"I thought the Victory game was promising", he said. "We created some great chances and probably deserved to win, but it's unfortunate that we didn't continue that form, and we were pretty disappointing against Newcastle". "I thought Newcastle played quite well, but we never really got into the game."

Thompson's presence has undoubtedly been missed in the middle of the park, and that certainly showed in last weekend's despondent display against the Newcastle Jets, Thompson's former club. After a poor start to the season, where Thompson was forced to play in defence, Thompson eventually found his feet in the middle of the park alongside Fred, who has thoroughly impressed when fit enough to take park, becoming one of the key factors in Heart's dream run, which saw them beat the likes of the Brisbane Roar, Wellington Phoenix, Newcastle Jets and of course, the Melbourne Victory, against whom he scored a majestic brace.

The Heart have won all three games in which Matt Thompson has managed to score a goal, those coming against Gold Coast, Perth and the Victory, and it is no coincidence that when Thompson's form has soared, so has the Heart's.

John van't Schip then will be desperate to reunite arguably his two best central midfielders in Fred and Thompson as soon as possible, as he looks for a way to overturn the Heart's horror run that might undo all the good work they have done this season. Thompson is keen to help his side get back to winning ways, but his message to his team mates was a simple one, get back to basics: "When we went through that run where we were seven undefeated, we were tough to beat", he opined. "We were compact and making it hard for teams to make opportunities. We seem to be slipping in that department at the moment, so I think if we can get back to the basics we'll get back to winning games."

For the sake of Heart's fans, management and of course, players, Matt Thompson will be hoping those words will ring true. With the Olyroos set to return, alongside Fred and potentially Thompson himself, there will be at least more options for John van't Schip to choose from as he aims to make his final season as Heart manager a memorable one.

Thompson's importance to the cause ought not be underrated, and the sooner the A-League all time appearance leader can come back into the side to lend his experience and quality, the better for the Melbourne Heart.



Photo: DANIEL ELIS

Marrone Re-Signs Until 2014

Melbourne Heart FC has received a massive boost after re-signing defender Michael Marrone for the next two Hyundai A-League seasons.

An outstanding right back, the 25-year old has extended stay with the Club until the end of the 2013/14 season, joining a number of his peers who have resisted the overtures of rivals to recommit to the Heart cause.

With the Red and White building a formidable yet youthful core, the extension of Marrone's stay in Melbourne is an affirmation of the Club's commitment to stability and continuity.

Head Coach John van 't Schip said: "Michael is obviously a player of the highest quality, and clearly one of our strongest performers.

"He received formal interest from three Hyundai A-League clubs, so the Club is delighted he has elected to extend his stay beyond this season.

"Given the Club's ambitions beyond this season, it is crucial Heart is able to retain the players it consider key cornerstones of future success, and Michael certainly fits that description.

"His strength, pace and technical ability have earmarked him as a competition leader in his position, placing him in contention for international recognition in the years to come."

Marrone, who played his 50th match in Red and White over the weekend, is Heart's all-time appearance leader, and among its most consistent performers during the past two seasons.

Having been the subject of much publicised interest from abroad last year, Marrone's re-signing provides further evidence of the Hyundai A-League's increased ability to retain its leading lights, which has contributed to the unprecedented standard of play this season.



Heart's Michael Moarrone evades a sliding tackle from Perth Glory's Mile Sterjovski, during a fixture earlier this season. Photo:TIM SIZE

Berisha pens new deal

Brisbane Roar striker Besart Berisha has put pen to paper on a new two-year contract with the club, extending his stay in the Queensland capital until the end of the 2013/14 Hyundai A-League season.

After he was spotted by Brisbane Roar assistant coach Rado Vidosic while playing alongside his son, Dario, at German second division side Arminia Bielefeld last year, Berisha originally signed for Brisbane in August 2011 on a one-year deal.

Berisha's infectious personality and on-field talent, which has seen him lead the tally for this season's Hyundai A-League Golden Boot with 13 goals to his name so far, quickly made him an important cog in the Roar set-up and Head Coach Ange Postecoglou moved quickly to ensure the prolific strike man would continue to wear the orange jersey for a further two seasons.

"I've played at high level and at small level in Europe but the most I've ever enjoyed my football is here now in Brisbane so there's no reason to change anything," Berisha said.

"Everything around me – the team is amazing, the club is fantastic and pro-



With 13 goals to his credit so far this season, Besart Berisha has been rewarded with a new deal at the Brisbane Roar. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

fessional, the staff as well... it's just a pleasure to work here."

While Berisha had to consider his young family in his decision-making

process, he admitted re-signing was an easy verdict to come to, with wife Sumea and 20-month-old son Amar relishing in their new lives in Bris-

bane.

After a career that has spanned nine professional clubs, four countries and two continents, the 26-year-old said after his family, enjoying his football was the most important factor to consider.

"In the end, I just followed my heart and went with what my heart said," Berisha said.

"From the first day, the team made me feel welcome and in the end, it's important not to look at what other clubs offer you, it's important to be somewhere you have fun and of course, I have a lot of enjoyment in Brisbane.

"I really feel well - I've found friends, I've found people who really care for other people and especially the team, we really stick together and it's really a pleasure to be here."

Berisha will make just his 21st appearance for the Roar on Saturday night and after joining Sergio van Dijk as the club's highest goal-scorer in one season (13) with his well-taken volley against Wellington Phoenix last week, he's in line to take the record for himself if he finds the back of the net against Melbourne Victory.

Victorian Police Soccer Club to visit Vietnam and Cambodia

By Ron Sinclair

On 15th February Victoria Police Soccer Club members will embark on an exciting and rewarding visit to Vietnam and Cambodia.

During the trip, the Boys in Blue will be playing tournaments in major international stadiums, liaising with local police and visiting three local charities to donate sporting goods and funds. Thanks to the generous support of

Nowicki Carbone Lawyers, Doncaster BMW, Club Assist Pty Ltd and the tireless fund raising efforts of VPSC members, funds amounting to the following will be donated.

Pacific Links (rescuing, rehabilitating and educating women and young girls abducted into sexual slavery) - \$2,000.00, Birla Children's Orphanage - \$4,200.00 and World Vision Cambodia - \$2,279.55.

The VPSC will be playing tourna-

ments in Hanoi and Ho Chi Mihn City and games in Siem Reap and Nha Trang.

Immediately following this trip, they will be competing in the Australasia & New Zealand Police & Emergency Services Games in Wellington, New Zealand, then returning to Melbourne to play a team of ex-Socceroos in memory of Senior Constable Tony Clarke - the Socceroos v Copperroos at AAMI Park on 17th March, 2012 (see 2

for 1 ticket offer on page).

As ever, VPSC players are very proud to represent Victoria Police, will be travelling with good will, in their own time and at their own expense.

VPSC members will detail their travels and adventures on the attached blog. Feel free to have a look and pass on to anyone who may be interested.

<http://vpscgoodwilltour2012.blogspot.com.au>

Wonderkid Rogic bursts onto local scene

By Daniel Quinn

Running through the centre of AAMI Park and beating Ante Covic from 30 metres out was 19-year-old Tomas Rogic of Canberra - an Australian Football Prospect from the Nike Football Academy.

Rogic joined the Central Coast Mariners from the Nike Football Academy in London after failing to gain a work permit with English Championship club Reading and the Mariners could not have been happier to snap up the youngster.

In January 2011 Rogic competed in the Nick Football Academy in which Rogic won and became one of the best eight young footballers in the world.

In January 2011 Rogic told Max Mason of Foxsports of his enjoyment in winning a contract with Nike.

"It's pretty unbelievable, I was lucky to get a spot, but I've worked pretty hard and I'm glad I've a reward out of it."

Rogic went onto to sign a three-year-deal with Reading in England but failed a work permit so returned to Australia to join the Central Coast Mariners which was the club he trained with before jetting off to England.

"From day one we knew he was preparing for the Nike Chance and I sat down and had a chat with him before he left, saying there was a contract on the table should he have come back," Arnold told Mason for Foxsports after Rogic won contract with The Nike Academy.

That is exactly what happened, after failing to gain a work permit Rogic accepted the offered deal which Arnold and the Mariners offered 12 months prior. Rogic went onto to make his A-League debut on January 21 against Adelaide United in a 3-2 victory over the Reds.

After Central Coast's 2-1 defeat



ACT boy Tom Rogic made an impressive debut for the Mariners last weekend against Victory, capping off a fine performance with a splendid goal. Photo: ANITA MILAS

to Melbourne Victory where Rogic scored his debut A-League goal coach Graham Arnold described Rogic to the media as a wonderful talent.

"Unfortunately he didn't get a work permit in England and he rang me and wanted to come back to us and play with us and you saw tonight he is a wonderful talent."

Arnold concedes though Rogic like all top youngsters have a lot of work still

ahead of them.

"He has a little bit to work physically on, he ran out of legs a little bit but it's a big step up for the kid and if he continues he has a great level head on him, he works hard if he continues the way he is and he is another exiting prospect of Australian Football."

Former Soccerroo captain Craig Moore praised the youngster for his fine performance against the Victory in Ray

Gatt's piece in The Australian.

"He shows a lot of good signs. He is a very clever player. He is clever in the positions he got on the ball, looked comfortable with the ball at his feet and with the way he glided past players."

Rogic believes he just needs to take the great experience of scoring his debut goal against players like Harry Kewell and Ante Covic into the upcoming games.

ing games.

"It was a great experience and I think I am going to learn from that and take it into the next match and matches after that. Yeah it's obviously great to score as well but in the end of the day I'd rather the three points but that's how it goes," Rogic stated in the media.

Arnold went onto to say that the focus of himself and the club is to give Australia

lian youngsters a go which is exactly what has happened with Rogic.

"We are a club for kids and we are trying to be a club of choice for kids wanting to have a go and get a go and we have had quite a few 18, 19 year olds on the pitch tonight and we have already got three away with the Olympic team. I think that's the focus of the club and myself is to bring the young kids through and give Australian youngsters a go."

Rogic praised the environment at the Mariners for making it easier for youngsters to come into the side.

"Yeah definitely, the environment that we are in is great with Arnie (Coach Graham Arnold) and the coaching staff and all the players around you have every bit of confidence and belief in you so going on the pitch...it's a good feeling knowing that they are backing you one hundred percent so it made it a lot easier for me to come into the side."

Rogic learnt his trade while playing Futsal and represented the Qantas Futsalroos and competed at the AFC Futsal Championships in 2010. The Canberra born midfielder ended up making seven appearances and scored 8 goals in his time with the Futsalroos. He told the media after his debut goal in the A-League that Futsal did help him become a good Footballer.

"I think everything of my technical ability and I think my comfort on the ball all sort of began with Futsal."

"I think it has definitely helped me and I'd encourage people in the future to look down that road."

The tall midfielder is still not sure what will happen after his deal finishes after the Asian Champions League but just wants to play Football.

"I am not sure yet. I am just looking at the season ahead and trying to play regular Football and I think I am getting that opportunity at the Mariners."

Compiled By Alvaro Rodriguez

WHAT'S HOT

In a fairytale postscript to my last Planet Football entry, Zambia defied the odds to reach the African Nations Cup Final and triumph against the Ivory Coast 8-7 on penalties after the two sides cancelled each other out nil-all in regular time! All the more fitting given the Final

was played in Libreville, Gabon - not far from the site of the Copper Bullets' 1993 tragedy that has undoubtedly served as a spur to this triumph. By doing so they have honoured the memory of the fallen AND brought untold joy to their country. Now they have the 2013 Confederations Cup to look forward to, and hopefully WC qualification for 2014 too! Congrats to Zambia!

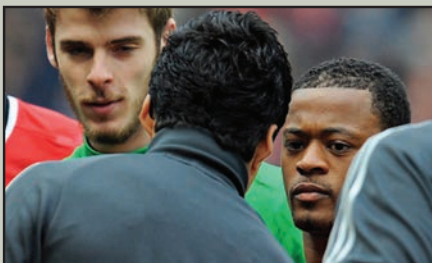


Kings of Africa... Zambia

WHAT'S NOT

Needless to say surely, the flip-side is the farcical goings-on in the Luis Suarez/Patrice Evra saga. By now things have downspiralled to the point that IMO, both parties have sullied their reputations - and thus for their own good, that of their clubs and the

game in a wider context, some kind of mediation or pride-swallowing MUST happen soon, because for this circus to drag on any longer would only trivialise the seriousness of it all!



Time for some Michael Jackson and having a good look at the man in the mirror...

Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine is now available at Melbourne Victory, Melbourne Heart, Newcastle Jets and Adelaide United home matches.

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Group stage upsets in the Copa Libertadores

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

Plenty of surprises in the Copa Libertadores as holders Santos lose in Bolivia, Boca Juniors held in a dull draw away in Venezuela amidst a crisis meeting with its first team boss and the club president over continued tension within the team. Brazil's Flamengo were also held against Lanús in Buenos Aires as Universidad de Chile were brought back to earth in the prestigious cup tournament with defeat in Colombia.

Substitute forward Rodrigo Ramalho scored in the 90th-minute to give The Strongest of Bolivia a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over defending champion Santos in the teams' Group 1 opener of the Copa Libertadores on Wednesday.

Ramalho netted the winner from a corner, heading in from the far post after the ball crossed through several defenders inside the area.

Santos defensive midfielder Henrique had opened the scoring from near the penalty spot in the 10th minute after a free kick taken by playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso.

Paraguayan Ernesto Cristaldo equalized in the high altitude of La Paz with a header following a breakaway in the 33rd, off a cross from Enrique Parada. Santos goalkeeper Rafael had dived to save a 90th-minute free kick that was aimed at the top corner after Brazil forward Neymar had put three chances just wide of the posts during the second half

Lanús 1 - Flamengo 1

In Thursday's other group stage match, Argentina's Lanús drew on 75 minutes courtesy of César Carranza after Flamengo had put themselves in front just on half-time.

Leo Moura put the Rio de Janeiro giant in front, much to the silence of the home crowd. It was result of a defensive blunder by the home side.

Lanús in the second half was the more hungrier side fighting for more, and it got its reward. A brilliant assistance pass from forward Mariano Pavone paved the way for Carranza to equalise. Ronaldinho had a rather shy performance although chances went also begging for the Brazilian side with Argentinian Dario Bottinelli allowing the home side to stay in the match.

A draw was a result that either side could have avoided had their chances gone in, in what was Lanús' opening match in this year's Copa Libertadores.

Defensor Sporting 2-0 Deportivo Quito

After suffering a 3-0 home loss to Argentina's Vélez Sarsfield last week, this home win was much needed for Defensor. Deportivo Quito were actually the more ambitious side for much of this match and will be disappointed that they let more road points slip away. They have one point from two games, and should probably have four.

Atlético Nacional 2-0 Universidad de Chile

La U had one attempted shot. The Sudamericana and Chilean champions, the team that plays the most attacking and ambitious football out of all of the top teams in South America at the moment, had only one shot on goal. The Medellín-based side was far more clearer on goal, dominating possession especially on the wings and in aerial play and looked comfortable on the ball, playing at its home stadium, the Atanasio Girardot.

The first goal came from resulting corner kick that found Juan David Valencia with a sweet directed left-footed volley that went straight into the back of the net. The Chilean side was far from the performances of its winning campaign in last year's Copa Sudamericana. On 80 minutes, a clever through-ball by midfield creator Macnelly Torres found talismanic



Luis Fabiano is back to full fitness in time for this weekend's blockbuster between São Paulo and Corinthians in the Paulista state championship in Brazil.

forward Dorian Pabón who tussled into the box in a one-on-one with defender Albert Acevedo to neatly put the ball past goalkeeper Johnny Herrera for the second goal of the night.

Zamora 0 - Boca Juniors 0

On Wednesday, Boca Juniors drew in a dull scoreless draw to Zamora as the already fragile relationship between Boca Juniors idol Juan Román Riquelme and coach Julio Cesar Falcioni appears to have deteriorated further.

Reports suggest that the pair clashed strongly following a disappointing Copa Libertadores draw in Venezuela. There are also reports that coach Falcioni has resigned.

Latest reports however on Thursday confirmed that coach Falcioni had a crisis meeting with the club president discuss his continuity and the conditions that shall lay ahead.

The mercurial play maker has made no secret of the fact that he is not a fan of the safety-first style advocated by his trainer and urged his team to start playing better during the recent series of summer friendlies. According to newspaper Olé, the 0-0 tie against Zamora on Tuesday night in the Copa Libertadores, the poor performance and result was a catalyst for a further disagreement between the influential figures. Riquelme and Falcioni apparently had a strong argument in the dressing room at the final whistle, although details of the clash have not been released.

Even Boca president Daniel Angelici, who previously backed his coach after Roman's criticisms, became involved in the war of words that broke out in Barinas.

Riquelme had previously praised the close-knit relationship between the Boca team, as well as their experience, in the hours leading up to their Copa opener.

"Most of the Argentine teams have a lot of kids, but that is not the case for us and that helps the trainer to relax a little more," the 33-year-old stated.

"That is why in this team we do not play that much Playstation, we like drinking maté." Boca are back in action on Sunday, when they visit Unión in Santa Fe for the second match of the Clausura season.

Luis Fabiano recovered from injury Luis Fabiano returned to training with São Paulo last Tuesday after two weeks out with a calf-strain.

São Paulo, who play city rivals Corinthians on the weekend, will be grateful for the return of their star striker, despite the form of striker Willian José, who has scored four in four games this season. All hopeful fans at the Morumbi will be delighted to know that this is the last of the injury woes for Luis Fabiano this season. The forward has had to be restricted to just the final stretch of the 2011 campaign following his arrival in Brazil.

The former Brazil international spent a

few years with Sevilla in Spain's La Liga before returning to his native country and is yet to debut for his current club in the 2012 Paulista state championship.

President of Brazilian Football Confederation under pressure

Ricardo Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation and the man charged with organising the 2014 World Cup was reportedly close to resigning on Wednesday after a local newspaper implicated him in another corruption scandal.

There is mounting pressure for Teixeira, who has headed the CBF for 22 years, could step down as early as Thursday, O Globo newspaper reported.

The news came on the day another newspaper, Folha de S.Paulo, reported that a company linked to the football boss overcharged the organisers of a November 2008 friendly match between Brazil and Portugal in Brazil's capital, Brasilia. Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaká and Robinho were among the big names who played in the game Brazil won 6-2 with a hat-trick from Luis Fabiano.

Folha said the Ailanto Marketing firm charged almost twice the normal room rate in booking accommodation for the Brazil side and 40 members of the Portuguese delegation. The local government of Brasilia spent 9 million reais (US\$5.23 million) on the game, according to Folha. It said Ailanto is the owner of another company called VSV Agropecuaria Empreendimentos Ltda whose Rio de Janeiro business address is the same as that of a firm belonging to Teixeira. Folha did not specify how Teixeira might have benefited from the overcharging. Telephone calls to the CBF went unanswered and the prosecutor's office handling the case declined to comment. The allegations are the latest in a long string of accusations leveled against Teixeira, 64, who is also a member of world soccer ruling body FIFA's ruling executive committee.

In 2001, a Congressional investigation accused him of 13 crimes ranging from tax evasion to money laundering to misleading lawmakers, although no charges were ever brought. Most recently, Teixeira was accused of taking more than \$1 million in bribes from ISL, the marketing firm that worked closely with FIFA in the 1990s.

Teixeira has denied any wrongdoing. Last year he told Brazilian magazine Plauai that the accusations against him were "all nonsense."

With preparations for the 2014 World Cup behind schedule and over budget, the accusations have strained relations between Teixeira and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, prompting him to lower his public profile.

Teixeira remains the president of the Local World Cup Organising Committee but has rarely appeared in public in recent months. Instead, he has turned much of the media work over to former

Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Barcelona striker Ronaldo, whom he appointed to the committee's management board on December 1st last year.

Money laundering reforms in place for Argentina

Football clubs in Argentina are now required to provide detailed reports on any transactions in an effort to prevent money laundering.

Under pressure from the global Financial Action Task Force, Argentina's Financial Information Unit published the tough new rules Wednesday.

The rules require the Argentine Football Association and every club in the top two divisions to file reports not only on officials, players, owners and staff who make at least \$13,800 a year, but on companies the association and clubs do business with.

In addition to the usual reporting of salaries, the rules call for bonuses, loans and deals such as housing, cars and financial arrangements involving family members to also be reported.

Fines for noncompliance could range from \$23,000 to 10 times the amount of money involved, whichever is greater. The Financial Action Task Force provides anti-money-laundering guidelines to governments worldwide. It began targeting soccer in 2009.

Many Argentine clubs are deeply in debt despite the vast sums of money that flow through the country's soccer industry. Gerardo Molina, chief executive of Euroamericas Sports Marketing, said last year that a study by his company showed Argentina has been the world's top exporter of players, with 2,204 sold or transferred to clubs abroad in 2010, topping Brazil's 1,674.

Selling the rights to these Argentine players to clubs in Europe and around the world generated about \$500 million that year, he said.

The Argentine watchdog agency says soccer is being challenged by organized crime like never before, citing a 2009 study by the global task force that declared soccer particularly vulnerable to money laundering, tax evasion, political corruption and other crimes, including even trafficking in human beings.

The agency's chief, Jose Sbattella, described soccer as a pit of temptations in a preface to the new rules, which were announced in the official government bulletin.

"The international organizations in question maintain that the sport today faces new threats and challenges that come along with commercial activity, exploitation of young players, doping, corruption, racism, illegal betting, violence, money laundering and other activities," Sbattella wrote.

Money laundering tricks range from basic to complex and sophisticated, the agency warned, including cash, international transfers, shell companies, and the illegal use of non-banking profession-



Universidad de Chile's Francisco Castro (R) battling for a high ball with Elkin Calle of Atlético Nacional in Copa Libertadores group phase action mid-week in Medellín, Colombia.

als to move money. In particular, selling rights to a player or team's image for undeclared amounts was being increasingly used to evade taxes, it said.

"The amounts of money invested in football have grown mainly as a consequence of the increase in television rights and corporate sponsorships, and at the same time, the labor market for professional football players has seen unequaled globalization, so that an ever-larger number of players are contracted by foreign teams, and the money being transferred around the world has reached surprising levels," the agency added. Argentina's government has toughened all sorts of reporting rules in recent months in hopes of staying off the task force's "gray list" of nations where financial transactions carry a high risk of criminal activity. The label can increase the overall cost of doing business in a country.

The controls on Argentine soccer had been expected since December, when AFA agreed to more government supervision and tax compliance in exchange for receiving more tax dollars for television rights. As a result, AFA gets more than \$200 million a year to televise games for free through its "Football for All" program.

The watchdog agency said its new rules came after numerous consultations with AFA, the clubs and the players' union.

1978 World Cup semi-final plot revealed

One of the World Cup's oldest mysteries finally may be solved after claims were made this week of a sinister plot involving mass corruption, government interference and torture.

Argentina's 1978 triumph against Peru long has been suspected of involving dirty tricks by the Argentinean political dictatorship led by Jorge Videla that held power at that time. For more than 30 years questions have been asked about the controversial 6-0 win that clinched Argentina's place in the final, where they beat the Netherlands, led by Johan Cruyff, 3-1.

For such a touchy subject, last week former Peruvian senator Genaro Ledesma said a deal was struck between Peru's then-president Francisco Bermúdez and Videla, whereby Argentina would be allowed to win the game by at least the four-goal margin it needed to avoid elimination.

In return, Videla's regime agreed to receive and imprison 13 Peruvian political dissidents who were vocally opposed to Bermúdez and his methods. "Videla needed to win the World Cup to cleanse Argentina's bad image around the world," Ledesma, 80, told a Buenos Aires court. "So he only accepted the group if Peru allowed the Argentina national team to triumph."

After Argentina won with ridiculous ease, suspicions immediately were raised. Conspiracy theories ranged from

the Peru goalkeeper having been bribed to suggestions that a large shipment of grain had been sent between the two countries as payment for a fixed result.

Ledesma's accusations raise the possibility of a far more nefarious reality: It is alleged that the 13 dissidents were beaten and tortured by their captors. Even 34 years later, investigators still are trying to get to the bottom of the Condor Plan, an agreement between 1970s South American dictators whereby political opponents could be repressed by sending them to cooperating nations.

"With what I know now, I can't say I am proud of my victory," said Leopoldo Luque, an Argentinean striker in 1978. "But I didn't realize, most of us didn't. We just played football."

Fixing an outcome in such a manner would be virtually impossible in a modern World Cup because of changes in the format and scheduling of the competition. In 1978, the final eight teams played off in two groups of four, with the group winners contesting the final.

With Brazil having played its final group match earlier in the day, Argentina knew exactly what it required – a four-goal victory or better – to progress. Today the World Cup is played on a knockout basis from the round of 16 onward, and the last round of matches in any group in the preliminary phase are played simultaneously.

Argentina would go on to win the World Cup again in 1986, but its first success, and what should be remembered as one of the greatest moments in its sporting history continues to be marred by scandal.

Judge Norberto Oyarbide is leading an ongoing investigation mandated to get to the bottom of the Peru "fix" saga, yet even disregarding the controversial game, that period of Argentine history is far from pleasant reading.

Less than a kilometre away from the River Plate Stadium where the 6-0 "victory" was recorded stood the infamous Naval Mechanics School, where members of Videla's military junta tortured and are believed to have killed more than 5,000 political opponents.

Such was the spate of politically motivated arrests that those who went missing, never to be seen again, were referred to simply as "the disappeared."

Videla used the World Cup as a public podium and insisted that reports of his regime's brutality were nothing more than an "anti-Argentine plot." He even welcomed American politician Henry Kissinger to the tournament and received standing ovations at every match even while behind closed doors his cohorts practiced brutality on those who dared speak up.

Over time, many of the Argentina players have spoken out about how Videla's influence tarnished what for most was their finest achievement in soccer. "There is no doubt we were used politically," former midfielder Ricky Villa said.

Pressure grows on AVB as Chelsea falter

LONDON CALLING



With Sam Collins in the UK

Every team has them. And Goodison Park is quickly becoming one of them for Chelsea. A bogey ground. Saturday's 2-0 defeat means the Blues have now failed to win in their last four visits to Everton. It's a stadium which has brought nothing but negativity for Chelsea in recent seasons, and it's not just the results which have suffered. Last May, Carlo Ancelotti was relieved of his duties in the corridors of Goodison, as Roman Abramovich deemed the club's second-placed finish as unsatisfactory. Ancelotti's league and cup triumph at Stamford Bridge twelve months earlier - the London side's first double in their 107-year history - was ostensibly irrelevant. Abramovich - who purchased the club in 2003 for £140m - is growing increasingly ruthless as the years pass by; Five sacked managers in the Russian's nine years in charge evidently reveals the owner's callous nature. If Jose Mourinho and Ancelotti can be sacked after lifting silverware at Chelsea, then what Abramovich will quite make of the club's perennial inadequacies this season, is scarcely abstruse.

When Andre Villas-Boas arrived in West London last summer, it appeared to signal a new approach from Abramovich. Appointing a coach as young as the Portuguese - Villas-Boas was 33 when he took over the helm - was an unprecedented move. Mourinho, Avram Grant, 'Phil' Scolari, Guus Hiddink and Ancelotti all arrived at the Bridge in their forties or fifties, and with greater managerial experience - to varying degrees. AVB's impressive treble-winning campaign at Porto in 2010/11 - a feat which included leading the Dragões to the Primeira Liga title unbeaten - ensured he came with a flourishing reputation. And Chelsea staunchly backed their new coach last June, following concerns in the media with regards to his age.

"Andre is one of the most talented young managers in football today," the club said after Villas-Boas signed his three-year deal. "His ambition, drive and determination matches that of Chelsea." In addition, Abramovich paid £13.3m in compensation to Porto to release the 34-year old from his contract. Chairman Bruce Buck even claimed he could be the club's coach for "the next 10 or 15 years". But Chelsea's current predicament is hard to ignore. They sit 5th in the Premier League, 17 points behind leaders Manchester City. Encounters with Birmingham City and Napoli in the FA Cup and Champions League lie ahead, but it is a place in the latter tournament which Chelsea



Loan star: Steven Pienaar opened the score early on for Everton

find themselves fighting to qualify for this season, which is causing the most disturbance for Abramovich - a competition the 45-year old has fought boisterously to win. The fact that a place amongst Europe's elite next season is in danger, is causing great apprehension for the owner.

On Sunday, a summit meeting was called, and tensions reached boiling point. Chelsea's senior personnel stood their ground as Villas-Boas berated them. Even assistant manager Roberto Di Matteo - who spent six years as a player with the club - is

under scrutiny, with an evolving feeling that the Italian is unpopular amongst the squad. The fans let their feelings known on Saturday, when they chanted "You don't know what you're doing" to Villas-Boas, after the former Academia coach substituted Juan Mata and Michael Essien. With both coaches under intense pressure from players, fans and the owner, their positions are approaching an untenable stage. The sight of Abramovich's frequent visits to the club's Cobham training ground in the past few weeks only increases the anxiety for the duo.

The 43 points amassed by Chelsea this season after 25 league games, is the lowest amount in the Abramovich era, at this stage of the campaign. In 2008/09, Scolari had accumulated 49, but was sacked shortly after. Last season, Ancelotti had 44 at this stage, but was sent packing months later, whilst Claudio Ranieri, who was lasted one season, reached 55. These totals are all dwarfed by Mourinho's 64 and 66 points, which the 'special one' gathered at this stage of his first two seasons at Chelsea. It all makes for treacherous reading for Villas-Boas.

The general conjecture when Gary Cahill signed for the Blues last month was that the England defender would help sure up the club's troubled back four. But bizarrely, the 26-year old has started just once in his four weeks with Chelsea - even failing to appear whilst captain and fellow centre-back John Terry nursed a knee injury. The bewilderment only expands when you recall the trouble the club went through to sign Cahill - with the former Bolton stopper's personal terms decelerating the deal.

There is little doubt Villas-Boas' tenure at Chelsea is precarious. He was always a "calculated gamble", as club legend Pat Nevin labelled his arrival. Porto president Pinto da Costa recently insisted his former manager made a mistake in leaving the 2004 European champions last summer, and it's hard to argue. But the opportunity of a successful season still exists - winning the club's first ever European cup, however implausible it seems, would secure AVB's future. The return of striker Didier Drogba from the African cup of Nations could help ignite the Blues' season, as £50m Spaniard Fernando Torres continues to decline. In all likelihood however, it will take more than the Ivorian to halt Chelsea's crisis.

David Moyes, the Everton manager, insisted on Saturday that Chelsea should hold on to Villas-Boas, highlighting "continuity and stability" as imperative. Whether the Portuguese will be in the dug-out facing the Scot again next season remains to be seen. But whoever is in charge won't enjoy the journey to Goodison Park - the ground which brings the worst out of Chelsea.

UCL Wrap



Matthew Galea

The Champions League returned for all the football lovers on Valentine's Day with the first two fixtures in the round of sixteen, contested by Barcelona and Bayern Leverkusen as well as Lyon and Apoel Nicosia. Barcelona underlined their intent to take out a third European crown in four years, as the defending champions stormed to a 3-1 win in the first leg of their tie with Bayern Leverkusen.

Alexis Sanchez opened the scoring after a drab opening 40 minutes, finishing from Messi's chipped through ball very neatly. Leverkusen equalised in the 52nd minute after a promising opening to the second half through Michal Kadlec who put away Vedran Corluka's cross with a well-placed header. Barcelona were ruthless from thereon in though, and Sanchez had Barca back up four minutes later, before Messi made sure of

the win with a much deserved goal after another brilliant performance in the 88th minute to all but seal Barcelona's progression.

It was not so easy for French giants Lyon though, who opened their Champions League knockout campaign with a 1-0 win at home over this season's Cypriot surprise package, APOEL Nicosia. The Cypriots came through a tough group where they were given no chance, and a very disciplined defensive performance away from home gives them hope of progressing to the quarter finals. Lyon won the first leg courtesy of a fortuitously deflected strike from Alexandre Lacazette.

APOEL only took one shot all night, an indicator of just how defensively they were set up, and were perhaps fortunate not to concede a penalty in the second minute when Nuno Morais seemed to have fouled Ederson. There was only going to be one winner of this match though, and Lacazette's goal should ensure a more open second leg, as APOEL are left with little choice but to search for at least one goal.

Thursday morning saw AC Milan

UCL returns to centre stage



Barcelona's Chilean star Alexis Sanchez grabbed a brace in a fine display.

throw up the performance of the week with a thumping 4-0 win that has almost rendered the need for a second leg redundant. Ibrahimovic ran the show, scoring Milan's final goal from the penalty spot after some typically clumsy defending from Djorou. Kevin Prince-Boateng opened the scoring in the 15th minute with a fabulous shot, before

goals either side of half time from Robinho made it 3-0 to the Italian giants.

Arsenal were left completely embarrassed on a night where they hoped to prove themselves as genuine heavyweights in Europe, however it looks like Wenger will have to go back to the drawing board this summer, should he be

given that chance, to build an assault on the European front.

The other game played on the day was a much more even affair, and was decided in a thrilling final 20 minutes. Benfica would eventually lose 3-2 to Russian side Zenit St Petersburg on a typically chilly night, but the two away goals Benfica will take back with them to

Champions League
Round of 16 – Week 1 Results
B Leverkusen 1 – 3 Barcelona
Lyon 1 – 0 APOEL Nicosia
AC Milan 4 – 0 Arsenal
Zenit St. Petersburg 3 – 2 Benfica

Portugal might just prove decisive. Maxi Pereira scored the first of them to put Benfica in the lead 20 minutes into the second half, courtesy of an error from Zenit's keeper, Yuri Zhevnov.

A well taken volley from Roman Shirkov in the 27th minute levelled the scores, before Sergei Semak kicked off a frantic final 20 minutes when he finished a superb team move with a classy backheel. Oscar Cardozo must have thought he'd stole the draw when he levelled for Benfica in the 87th minute after another spill from Zhevnov, but it wasn't to be as Shirkov grabbed his brace in the 88th minute to steal the win, after a horrible mistake from Maxi Pereira.



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Steven Talevski Sportsmanship the loser as United win

Manchester United walked away with three points against Liverpool with Patrice Evra and Luis Suarez setting a heated atmosphere in one of the most intense derbies between the two clubs in years.

Wayne Rooney's two second half goals were enough to hand Manchester United a 2-1 win with a late Luis Suarez strike as mere conciliation for Liverpool.

But it was the non-handshake before the game and Patrice Evra's post-match celebrations that created the talking points from Old Trafford.

Luis Suarez's decision not to shake Patrice Evra's hand prior to the match set a heated tempo to the game as the two almost collided in the second minute.

However it was Rio Ferdinand, who had decided not to shake Suarez's hand due to the Uruguayan decision not to shake Evra's, who was left sandwiched between the two in a nasty challenge.

Patrice Evra then escalated tensions between the two rival sides following the final whistle as he ran in front of Luis Suarez who was making his way to the tunnel to celebrate with the Stretford End.

Evra began waving his arms and tapping the Manchester United badge on his jersey right in front of Suarez that caused several players and officials to pull Evra away from Suarez who continued walking to the tunnel.

In the traditional post-match interviews with both managers, Sir Alex Ferguson said he had spoken to Evra about the potential handshake and claimed that Luis Suarez should not play for Liverpool again.

"I had a chat with Patrice in the morning and he said he was going to shake



Tempers boiled as Suarez and Evra failed to set a good example of sportsmanship.

his [Suarez's] hand because he had nothing to be ashamed of and wanted to keep his dignity," Ferguson said.

"He [Suarez] is a disgrace to Liverpool football club and players like him should not be allowed to play for Liverpool again.

"The history that club has got, and he does that. And in a situation like today it could have caused a riot.

"I thought it was really disappointing." However Ferguson was quick to share his disappointment with Evra's post-match celebrations.

"He [Evra] shouldn't have done that," Ferguson said.

While it was a much different reaction from Kenny Dalglish who said he did not see the non-handshake and criticized the reporter, who was asking fair and relevant questions, telling him he was 'bang out of order'.

Kenny Dalglish has since apologised for his reactions, with media speculation that he was forced by club owners.

"To be honest, I was shocked to hear that the player [Suarez] had not shaken hands having been told earlier in the week that he would do," Dalglish said.

"When I went on TV after yesterday's game I hadn't seen what had happened, but I did not conduct myself in a way befitting of a Liverpool manager

during that interview and I'd like to apologise for that."

While Luis Suarez has also apologised for not shaking hands claiming he let the club and his manager down.

"I've not only let him [Dalglish] down, but also the Club and what it stands for and I'm sorry. I made a mistake and I regret what happened," Suarez said.

"I should have shaken Patrice Evra's hand before the game and I want to apologise for my actions."

The result leaves United two points behind table toppers Manchester City who had a hard fought one nil victory away to Aston Villa courtesy of a Joleon Lescott goal mid-way through the second half.

In other major Premier League news, Mick McCarthy's six year run as Wolverhampton Wanderers which saw him win the Football League Championship and gain the club promotion back into the Premier League has ended.

McCarthy's contract was terminated by the Wolverhampton board after the sides 5-1 loss at home to rivals West Bromwich Albion.

Meanwhile Tottenham continue to impress doubters with a five nil victory over Newcastle United with new

signing Luis Saha netting a double as media speculation increases over Manager Harry Redknapp's future at the club as Fabio Capello resigned from the English National team role.

Meanwhile, there was a change in fourth position on the table as Arsenal overtook Chelsea on goal difference as the Gunners defeated inform Sunderland 2-1 courtesy of a 91st minute Thierry Henry strike while Chelsea were shocked 2-0 at Goodison Park against Everton.

Down the bottom of the table, Wigan picked up an important three points over Bolton leaving them just one point behind Bolton on the bottom of the table.

Fellow relegation zone strugglers Blackburn moved out of the relegation zone with a 3-2 victory over Queens Park Rangers, leaving the hapless Wolverhampton Wanderers to drop into the relegation zone on goal difference.

In other Premier League results Norwich won 3-2 away to Swansea and Fulham defeated Stoke City 2-1 at home.

EPL Preview
This weekend's round of football is highlighted by the Northern London derby between third placed Tottenham and fourth placed Arsenal.



Sacked: Mick McCarthy

Rangers enter administration

Rangers have officially moved into administration, incurring a 10-point penalty from the Scottish Premier League as a result.

The Glasgow club have been in financial difficulty for several months and appointed London-based firm Duff and Phelps as the club's administrators on Tuesday.

The firm will now take charge of the day-to-day running of the club as they bid to battle their mounting debt problems.

The SPL champions first gave notice of their intention to enter administration on Monday, as they face a tax bill which could rise to 75 million pounds.

The news is likely to send shockwaves through Scottish football, as the long-term future of the famous club becomes increasingly uncertain.

Former manager Graeme Souness described the situation as a 'tragedy', while owner Craig Whyte met with the players at the training ground on Monday to hold frank discussions over the current turmoil.

However, Whyte was insistent that going in to administration is the only way to drag the club out of trouble, telling Sky Sports: "This was the best way to take the club forward and end the uncertainty that's surrounding Rangers at the moment."

"What we've done today is the start of a road to recovery. Rangers will always be around, Rangers will always be here at Ibrox and this is the start of the healing process."

"We will get over this and we will come out fighting and come out stronger, there's no question about that."



Bright Horizons for England's National Team?



Eddie Gray

Media clamour swelled, the FA acted and England manager Fabio Capello resigned in what was another huge week for the national side.

English football in general is no stranger to controversy and the England team is never far away from it as well.

The most recent ordeal emanated from the John Terry race row with the three lions skipper not due to learn his fate until after the European Championships this summer.

With strong murmurs of discontent arising from Terry's fellow England team mates and the potential backlash on public image that they would suffer the FA swiftly reached a decision to strip Terry of the captaincy with immediate effect.

This verdict left Capello in a difficult situation; would he accept the judgement by the FA or would he stand his ground in the belief he should have the final say over decisions over footballing matters?

It proved to be the latter and with his authority and integrity questioned



Harry Redknapp seems to be the front runner for the England job, but don't rule out the Special One.

Capello offered his resignation and left his position.

The Italian however seems to have landed on his feet. Hugely wealthy Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala have accepted the resignation of previous coach Yuri Krasnozhan so Capello looks certain to return to football in the near future with another bumper pay deal.

But what is next for England? If the same predicament had fallen upon another country then there may have been a greater panic but with England, captain and coach sagas are the norm.

The role of manager was already up for debate with Capello announcing that he would leave after Euro 2012 so candidates were already being discussed but when he suddenly

resigned the question over who would be the new boss increased in intensity.

Current Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp is the hot favourite to take the position with the media, pundits and experts favouring the English man.

Even the current crop of national players have publicly backed Redknapp including Manchester United front man Wayne Rooney who said via twitter: "Got to be English to replace him. Harry Redknapp for me."

The FA has recently announced they will wait until after the domestic campaign finishes to announce the new boss which seems to increase the chances of Redknapp taking over as he is currently in the middle of a race to reach the Champions League



with current club Tottenham.

But when the season does climax and if Spurs reach the Champions League will Redknapp want to give up another opportunity in Europe's major club competition? Last year the North London side reached the quarter finals in their first appearance in the competition which could sway Redknapp's decision if he fancies his chances against the great European club sides.

Additionally, many quality managers who boast vastly impressive CV's have already failed in the role of England boss leading to many believing the role is 'a poisoned chalice'.

However, an interesting side plot has already surfaced with Redknapp stating he would recall Paul Scholes to the international fold if he was in-

stated. Capello tried to do this with the same player for the ill fated 2010 World Cup campaign but Scholes turned it down due to the short notice given. Could Redknapp already be putting foundations down for later this summer? Only time will tell.

Nevertheless if Redknapp decides it's not for him then who else is there? The only other credible candidate is Jose Mourinho who is strongly rumoured to be leaving Real Madrid this summer.

The Portuguese man who has won two of Europe's biggest league titles (The Premier League and Serie A) and looks set to win La Liga this year would come with a huge reputation and many fans in English football but whether Mourinho would want a national job and whether the FA want a

foreign coach are two questions that are yet to be answered.

In spite of this the likelihood is that Redknapp will join England and reluctantly leave Spurs with extremely fond memories.

If he does arrive at FA headquarters his first task will be selecting a new captain, a role of great importance to English fans.

This selection appears to be relatively straight forward. Liverpool's Steven Gerrard and Tottenham's Scott Parker seem to be the outstanding choices. Both players are loved by the fans and both give everything every time they play. If Gerrard wasn't as injury prone then he would be the out right favourite but the frequency in which the Liverpoolian is breaking down with niggles and strains is alarming and cause for concern.

Other options include Wayne Rooney and Joe Hart with the latter being backed by England and Manchester City team mate James Milner who said: "He is a great character, he talks, he is not afraid to say what he thinks. I'm sure he is going to be England's number one for a long time, so he is as good a candidate to be captain as anyone."

However, the captaincy issue shouldn't be a problem whoever Redknapp picks if he can get his ideas and philosophy across to the players. England have been quiet for too long on the international stage and if there is one man who can reignite a country full of passion for its football it's Harry Redknapp.



Luca Cetta

Milan goes top as

Serie A was once again unable to complete a full round due to snow-fall as bottom club Novara shocked Inter. Milan leapfrogged Juventus in Udine, a result which also helped Lazio into the final Champions League place.

Another week and another helping of snow to throw the League calendar into chaos. Two scheduled matches - Bologna hosting Juventus and Parma versus Fiorentina - had to be postponed due to a blizzard which hit the Emilia-Romagna region. It has been one of the worst-hit areas throughout this period of high snowfall. The two matches, plus last week's abandoned Cesena - Catania clash, will occur on March 7th.

Novara caused a stir with their upset 1-0 victory at the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza against Inter. It was the Piedmont club's first away win this season and second triumph over the Nerazzurri. The hosts were seeking retribution and a way back into Champions League contention after three matches without a win and peppered the Novara goal with 30 shots to 6. However, goalkeeper Samir Ujkani was in inspired form and the players ahead were well organised.

Andrea Caracciolo scored the only goal ten minutes into the second half. As they looked to waste time late on, Ivan Radovanovic was shown a second yellow for kicking the ball away, but Novara held firm. Emiliano Mondonico enjoyed his first win on the Novara bench, and said afterwards: "Today Novara's



Juventus were left frustrated by a 0-0 stalemate at Parma in Serie A on Wednesday while Atalanta defeated Genoa.

performance was incredible on a tactical level. Many confuse tactical solidity with catenaccio, but they are certainly not the same thing."

Udinese looked to be in control of their encounter versus Milan when Antonio Di Natale netted inside 20 minutes. Playing poorly and short of ideas, Milan looked susceptible to the counter-attack, yet Udinese wasted their opportunities. When Samir Handanovic spilled a weak cross, substitute Maxi Lopez drew Milan level with 15 minutes remaining. Promising talent Stephan El Shaarawy then put Milan ahead to signal Udinese's first home loss of the campaign. Defeat was made worse as Mauricio Isla suffered knee ligament damage and Di Natale injured his foot.

Lazio were deep trouble at half-time against Cesena, after goals from Adrian Mutu and Vincenzo Iaquinta put the visitors ahead and the capital club had been reduced to ten men. Despite that, three goals within ten second-half minutes - including a Hernanes belter - meant Lazio completed an incredible turnaround.

Fellow European contenders Roma and Napoli enjoyed contrasting fortunes. The Giallorossi controlled the

match at Siena but succumbed to a second half Mattia Destro penalty. Napoli put a recent hoodoo against Chievo to bed, also winning their first match in six thanks to Uruguayan pair Miguel Britos and Edinson Cavani.

Genoa and Palermo continued their awful away form. The port-city club lost for the eighth time on the road this season, crashing 4-0 at Catania, meaning they have conceded 18 goals in their past four away games. Meanwhile, Palermo are still to register an away win. Former Rosanero striker Mauricio Pinilla was on hand to sink his former club, as Cagliari won 2-1. Finally, Atalanta and Lecce played out a 0-0 draw, despite Atalanta hitting the woodwork twice.

Juve went to Parma seeking to reclaim top spot in their rescheduled clash from early February. The Bianconeri were constantly frustrated by the Ducali in a 0-0 draw which keeps the Turin giants just behind Milan. In the other postponed fixture played on Wednesday, Atalanta squeezed past Genoa 1-0, thanks to a goal scored with just over ten minutes to play.

League leaders Milan go into their weekend encounter with Cesena fresh

from a huge win against Arsenal in the Champions League, but are still contending with a big injury list. Mark van Bommel returns from suspension, but Zlatan Ibrahimovic is unavailable.

Inter and Napoli both have a Champions League match to prepare for and will be seeking momentum ahead of their continental showdowns. Inter Coach Claudio Ranieri is under immense pressure to turn their floundering fortunes around at home to Bologna. Napoli will be preparing for Chelsea away at Fiorentina and Walter Mazzarri is expected to play his strongest line-up. The Azzurri will be boosted by the return of captain Paolo Cannavaro from suspension.

Europa League participants Udinese and Lazio have injuries to deal with. Antonio Floro Flores will be expected to lead the attack for the Zebrette against Cagliari, while Lazio are missing up to eight players from their squad for the trip to Palermo, ensuring Edy Reja must fit the team together best as possible.

Juventus drew their catch-up clash and will be searching for a greater attacking impetus against Catania, who are unbeaten on their last four trips to Turin. The sides also drew earlier in the season and with their inability to beat mid-table clubs convincingly, Juve must be aware of the dangers Catania possess.

Roma will be aiming to bounce back from their defeat and show the consistency Coach Luis Enrique has continually stressed is required to succeed when they host Parma. Genoa are seeking to continue their strong home form when Chievo visits the Stadio Luigi Ferraris, while just one loss in the past six has Lecce in a strong position at home to Siena. Finally, Novara will look to carry on from the Inter upset and assist their bid for safety at home against Atalanta, who have struggled in 2012.

Barca surrender La Liga, now focus on UCL



Pepe Lopez

Barcelona FC have all but surrendered the La Liga title to Real Madrid with 16 rounds remaining.

Looking ahead to the midweek European Champions League Round of 16 away leg to Bayer Leverkusen, Barca Coach Pep Guardiola rested midfielders Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez and Cesc Fabregas on their match away to Osasuna. It was a costly mistake, as Osasuna from the Basque region claimed a shock 3-2 victory against the Catalans, allowing Real Madrid to stretch their lead at the top of La Liga to 10 points. Even Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho breathed a sigh of relief at Real's position, as quoted from the Real Madrid web-site: "Ten points are just that, but they do give you some room for error.

Losing a game won't push us into a decisive situation. There are many points still at stake and many games yet to be played. Every match is difficult and increasingly so because there is so much at stake for everyone now. Those who want to avoid relegation or play in Europe risk everything. There are 39 points left, which translate into 13 victories, and that's still a lot."

Real Madrid however somehow managed to get themselves into controversy yet again. Their visitors, Levante, the only team other than Barcelona to beat Real in La Liga this season, took an early lead at the Santiago Bernabeu before the match was turned on its head for what appeared to be a clumsy handball decision, leading to a Real penalty and Levante red card against Vicente Iborra. Not the first time this season that Real Madrid have been losing at home, and the match turned when a referee has awarded a penalty to Real and a red card to the opposition. Levante defender Gustavo Cabral had no doubt he was the victim of Real Madrid's prestige; "Here in Spain, a huge importance was given to the fact that Madrid could go 10 points clear of Barcelona.

three goals in the last twelve minutes getting the points for Pana. Rivals Olympiakos remain two points behind the leaders following a 2:0 derby win over AEK Athens with first half strikes to Mellberg and Mirallas. PAOK overcame OFI in Crete with a Giannou first half brace. Doga Drama is getting valuable points in their relegation battle following an important come from behind win over Panaitolikos, goals to Lima Santos and Kivelidis cancelled out Kousas opener. The League leaders take on Ergotelis in Crete in the next round of matches, Olympiakos welcomes Panionios, Doga seeks revenge against Kerkyra, AEK looks to bounce back when they take on OFI and in Thessaloniki PAOK takes on Aris.

The referee was on Madrid's side. There were many errors which hurt us and yes, we can say that we were robbed. Perhaps it bothers people that a club as humble as Levante are as high in the league as we are."

Meanwhile Barcelona's ambition of claiming four cups this season looks a strong possibility, despite more controversy from Real Madrid FC, having already won the Spanish Super Cup (pre-season) and the World Club Cup, Barcelona have advanced to the Spanish King's Cup final and have one foot in the European Champions League Quarter-Finals, after a convincing 3-1 away to Bayer Leverkusen. 2 goals from Alexis Sanchez and a late goal from Lionel Messi have placed Barcelona in pole position with the return leg at the Nou Camp. Old Spanish politics has blown up in the nation's capital city, as the Spanish Cup final was scheduled to be played at the Santiago Bernabeu, but the club has withdrawn its availability of the stadium, as the two finalists are from regions within Spain, where Spanish nationality is less desirable than regional independence.

"We can not force Real Madrid to host the final at the Bernabeu. If we cannot play at the Bernabeu, it will be at Mestalla (Valencia)".

Stated a spokesperson for the Spanish Football Association. Whilst Barcelona FC spokespeople were quick to criticize Real Madrid's political stance, Real Coach Jose Mourinho was also quick in mocking the event;

"I(we) won't play the Copa del Rey final, so I don't care if it's held here or in China."

An official Barcelona FC statement read; "It should be an honour for the Santiago Bernabeu and for Spanish football: the final being staged on a stage like that between two big clubs. We insist that this must be the stadium. I am optimistic as possible because we want to throw a big party for Spanish football."

Barcelona FC and Athletic Bilbao last played each other in the Spanish Cup Final at Estadio Mestalla in Valencia, and supporters of both clubs in unison both jeered the Spanish national anthem prior to kick off. Barcelona is the capital of the Catalonia region in Spain and Bilbao is the capital of the Basque country in Spain (and France), both communities have been granted official nationality status within Spain.

Turkey

Galatasaray has a six point buffer at the top of the Turkish League.

The league leaders overcame James Troisi's Kayserispor with a goal from Felipe Melo. Fenerbahce was defeated by relegation battlers Karabukspor 2:1 Cernat and Hikmet scored two first half goals for the home side but Alex pegged one back on the hour mark for Fener which failed to find the net again and thus slipping six points behind rivals Gala.

Besiktas shared the spoils with Sivasspor, Trabzonspor thrashed Gaziantepspor 4:1 and Bursaspor edged out Manisaspor on the road.

Galatasaray is on the road to Mersin in the upcoming round of matches. Fenerbahce welcomes Sivasspor. Kayserispor takes on Trabzonspor in the most interesting match of the round and Besiktas welcomes Genclerbirgisi.

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

SuperLiga prepares to resume after winter break

Serbia

Two weeks remain until the SuperLiga resumes and the big three Red Star, Partizan and Vojvodina are looking good. All three clubs have had a good winter training camp and good hit-outs which has seen the clubs get their match fitness back and it also gives the managers a great chance to try new things.

Red Star will play a friendly against Ukrainian giants Shakhtar Donetsk. This will be the clubs biggest test to date, it will also give manager Robert Prosinecki an opportunity to see where his side is at the moment and what players he can rely on once the season starts.

Partizan is looking great under Avram Grant, the Israeli manager has already been influential at the club. It will be very exciting to see how he goes in the League and in the Cup where Partizan takes on arch rival Red Star in Semi-Finals.

Former Red Star striker Dejan Lekic was linked with a move back to Red Star unsatisfied with his status at Osasuna but over the weekend Lekic scored a valuable double against Barcelona in a 3-2 win which Lekic describes as his best match ever. The two goals have given the tall striker the added confidence to continue to play well and score goals. He will be important for the Serbian National Team if he continues to play well and find his form.

Milan Bisevac will be presented this weekend with the French Ligue 1 Player of the Month Award for his brilliant performances for PSG since returning from injury. Bisevac has switched to right back from centre back and has established himself as the best player in the position in Ligue 1. Bisevac fine form will be key for the clubs title push and will also be very important for Serbia once the World Cup Qualifiers get under way.



Alex's goal was not enough for Fenerbahce

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb reached the Final of a friendly tournament held in Portugal. Under the guidance of new manager Cacic, the Croatian giants lost in the final of the Atlantic Cup to Danish side Midtjylland 1:0. It has been a fairly good winter break for the club ahead of the Croatian League and Cup which Dinamo expects to win both. With Hajduk lacking title contention form, the defending champions shouldn't have any problems doing the double this season, after the shocking European campaign it seems the club has

put its disappointment behind them, looking ahead to new challenges. The Croatian Futsal team finished fourth at the European championships held in Croatia. This is the nations best finish in a continental tournament, the hosts lost the Semi-Final to Russia 3:1 and were then defeated by Italy for the Bronze by the same score.

Greece

Panathinaikos remains on top of the Greek League following an important win over Xanthi. The Greek giants left it late to get the win with

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Portugal Primeira Liga											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		Last5games	Most recent first
1 Benfica	18	15	3	0	47	15	+32	48		WWWWW	
2 Porto	18	13	4	1	42	12	+30	43		WLWWD	
3 Sporting Braga	18	12	4	2	35	16	+19	40		WWWWW	
4 Sporting CP	18	9	5	4	29	16	+13	32		LWDL D	
5 Marítimo	18	9	5	4	26	21	+5	32		WLWDW	
6 Vitória Guimarães	18	8	2	8	24	19	+5	26		WWLWW	
7 Gil Vicente	18	5	7	6	19	27	-8	22		WWLDL	
8 Olanhense	18	5	6	7	20	24	-4	21		LWDWL	
9 Académica	18	5	5	8	18	22	-4	20		LDLDD	
10 Nacional	18	5	4	9	17	31	-14	19		LLWDW	
11 Rio Ave	18	5	3	10	16	23	-7	18		WDLWL	
12 Paços de Ferreira	18	5	3	10	23	36	-13	18		WWWDL	
13 Beira-Mar	18	4	4	10	14	17	-3	16		LLLLL	
14 Feirense	18	3	6	9	13	27	-14	15		LLDDL	
15 Vitória Setúbal	18	3	5	10	14	32	-18	14		LLLLD	
16 União de Leiria	18	4	2	12	18	37	-19	14		LLDDL	

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EPL Manchester United 2 - 1 Liverpool Blackburn Rovers 3 - 2 Queens Park Rangers Bolton Wanderers 1 - 2 Wigan Athletic Everton 2 - 0 Chelsea Fulham 2 - 1 Stoke City Sunderland 1 - 2 Arsenal Swansea City 2 - 3 Norwich City Tottenham Hotspur 5 - 0 Newcastle United Wolverhampton ... 1 - 5 West Bromwich Albion Aston Villa 0 - 1 Manchester City	LEAGUE ONE Carlisle United 0 - 0 Tranmere Rovers Sheffield Wednesday 0 - 1 Stevenage Colchester United 2 - 1 Brentford Oldham Athletic 2 - 1 Walsall Charlton Athletic 2 - 1 Milton Keynes Dons Notts County 2 - 1 Exeter City Preston North End 1 - 0 Hartlepool United Scunthorpe United 1 - 0 Rochdale AFC Bournemouth 1 - 2 Leyton Orient Huddersfield Town 0 - 1 Sheffield United Wycombe Wanderers 2 - 3 Yeovil Town Bury 1 - 1 Chesterfield	SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE Dunfermline Athletic 1 - 4 Rangers Celtic 1 - 0 Inverness CT Hibernian 0 - 0 Aberdeen Kilmarnock 1 - 1 Heart of Midlothian St. Johnstone 1 - 5 Dundee United St. Mirren 0 - 0 Motherwell	Nice 0 - 0 PSG Toulouse 0 - 1 Saint-Étienne GERMANY Borussia Dortmund 1 - 0 Bayer Leverkusen Bayern München 2 - 0 Kaiserslautern Werder Bremen 1 - 1 Hoffenheim Mainz 05 1 - 1 Hannover 96 Stuttgart 5 - 0 Hertha BSC Borussia M'gladbach 3 - 0 Schalke 04 Augsburg 0 - 0 Nürnberg Köln 0 - 1 Hamburger SV	NAC Breda 0 - 2 Ajax Utrecht 1 - 1 ADO Den Haag PSV 4 - 1 De Graafschap RKVC Waalwijk 0 - 1 Heerenveen Feyenoord 3 - 1 Vitesse PORTUGAL Sporting Braga 3 - 0 Vitória Setúbal Marítimo 2 - 0 Sporting CP Benfica 4 - 1 Nacional Paços de Ferreira 3 - 1 Feirense Olhanense 0 - 2 Rio Ave Beira-Mar 0 - 1 Vitória Guimarães Porto 4 - 0 União de Leiria Académica 0 - 2 Gil Vicente
THE CHAMPIONSHIP Birmingham City 0 - 0 Hull City Bristol City 2 - 2 Crystal Palace Doncaster Rovers 1 - 3 Blackpool Cardiff City 3 - 1 Peterborough United Brighton & Hove Albion 2 - 2 Millwall Derby County 0 - 1 Reading Middlesbrough 2 - 1 Nottingham Forest Watford 3 - 2 Leicester City Coventry City 2 - 1 Leeds United Portsmouth 0 - 1 Ipswich Town Burnley 2 - 0 Barnsley West Ham United 1 - 1 Southampton	LEAGUE TWO Gillingham 1 - 2 Southend United Rotherham United 1 - 0 Accrington Stanley Swindon Town 3 - 0 Crawley Town Oxford United 2 - 1 Dagenham & Redbridge Aldershot Town 1 - 0 Hereford United Crewe Alexandra 3 - 2 Burton Albion Plymouth Argyle 0 - 0 Barnet Cheltenham Town 0 - 1 Torquay United Bradford City 1 - 1 Port Vale Northampton Town 1 - 0 AFC Wimbledon Morecambe 1 - 0 Macclesfield Town Shrewsbury Town 1 - 0 Bristol Rovers	ITALY Udinese 1 - 2 Milan Cagliari 2 - 1 Palermo Catania 4 - 0 Genoa Atalanta 0 - 0 Lecce Internazionale 0 - 1 Novara Napoli 2 - 0 Chievo Siena 1 - 0 Roma Atalanta 1-0 Genoa Parma 0-0 Juventus FRANCE Auxerre 1 - 1 Lorient Evian TG PSTP Olympique Mars... Olympique Lyon 1 - 2 Caen Montpellier 3 - 0 Ajaccio Valenciennes 1 - 0 Nancy Stade Rennes 1 - 0 Sochaux Brest 1 - 1 Dijon Lille 4 - 5 Bordeaux	GREECE Panionios 0 - 0 PAS Giannina OFI 0 - 2 PAOK Atromitos 3 - 1 Kerkyra Doxa Dramas 2 - 1 Panaitolikos Aris 1 - 1 Ergotelis Levadiakos 0 - 1 Asteras Tripolis Panathinaikos 3 - 0 Xanthi Doxa Dramas 0 - 1 Kerkyra Levadiakos 2 - 0 Panaitolikos HOLLAND AZ 2 - 0 Excelsior VVV 2 - 0 Groningen Roda JC 1 - 0 NEC	SPAIN Racing Santander 0 - 0 Atlético Madrid Osasuna 3 - 2 Barcelona Real Betis 2 - 1 Athletic Club Espanyol 0 - 2 Real Zaragoza Málaga 3 - 1 Mallorca Rayo Vallecano 2 - 0 Getafe Valencia 4 - 0 Sporting Gijón Villarreal 3 - 1 Granada Real Madrid 4 - 2 Levante Real Sociedad 2 - 0 Sevilla

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